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UNITED!**

How *Star Wars'*
Female Fanbase
Changed the World!

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HERE!**

Rebels actress
Vanessa Marshall
on Fighting
the Empire!

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Jeffrey Brown



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EDITOR'S WELCOME



"Well I guess you don't know everything about women yet"
—Princess Leia, *Star Wars: Episode V The Empire Strikes Back*, 1980

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UNITED KINGDOM
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Late last year, I was invited to talk about dedicated *Star Wars* fans on a UK news show. The female presenter made a flippant remark about not having seen *Star Wars* before adding, "But then, I'm a girl." Shocked by this, I scolded her, stating that *Star Wars* has a large and very active female fanbase and that her viewpoint was incredibly outdated. This was all while I was sat next to an Elvis Presley impersonator from the north of England, who was clad in a white sequined jumpsuit; this job can be surreal at times.

For this issue of *Star Wars Insider*, we thus decided that it was high time to take a look back at why—despite what the presenter thought—*Star Wars* has always appealed to girls, as well as boys, of all ages! We're now truly living in the age of the fangirl, and *Star Wars* has been key in turning around perceptions about who the science-fiction and space fantasy fans really are.

Also in this issue, we meet the latest in a long line of strong women who populate the *Star Wars* universe: Hera, of *Star Wars Rebels*, aka actress Vanessa Marshall! She's proven to be a huge hit with *Star Wars Weekends* attendees already, and we think you're going to love her, too! Our interview with Vanessa is also a taster for next issue—when we'll be devoting an entire issue to the new show!

May the Force be with you... Always.

Jonathan Wilkins

Jonathan Wilkins, Editor

STAR WARS

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2014

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IL 60003, U.S.A.

Contact Us (U.K.) *Star Wars Insider*,
144 Southwark Street, London SE1 0UP, U.K.

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SPECIAL THANKS TO

Frank Parisi and Erich Schoeneweiss at
Random House, Tracy Cannobbio and
Chris Argyropoulos at Lucasfilm



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STAR WARS INSIDER MAY/JUNE 2014
(USPS 033-0277)
ISSN 1041-5122

Star Wars Insider is published eight times per year (January/
February, March, April, May/June, July, August/September,
October, November/December) by Titan Magazines, a division of
Titan Publishing Group Limited, 144 Southwark Street, London SE1
0UP. Contents © 2014 Lucasfilm Ltd. & TM. All Rights Reserved.
Titan Publishing Group Ltd. 144 1281

PUBLISHER'S U.S. AGENT

2819 Roswell Lane, Aurora, IL 60003. Periodicals
Postage Paid at Aurora, IL, and at additional
mailing offices.

POSTMASTER

Send address changes to Star Wars Insider,
PO Box 16170, Redwood City, CA 94067-0170
U.S. subscriptions:
\$4.99 per year; Canada \$9.99
and £6.99 per year.
Printed in the U.S. by Stevens.

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THIS ISSUE.....

"IF ALL YOU DO IS FIGHT FOR YOUR OWN LIFE, THEN YOUR LIFE IS WORTH NOTHING!"

HERA SYNDULLA, *STAR WARS REBELS*

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Insider meets actress
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LAUNCH PAD

ALL THE COOL NEWS FROM THE *STAR WARS* UNIVERSE

EPISODE VII ROUND-UP!



STAR WARS

FORCE FOR CHANGE

**J.J. ABRAMS LAUNCHES
CHARITABLE DRIVE...
WITH A NEW FRIEND!**

J.J. Abrams is giving one lucky fan a VIP trip to London to be in *Star Wars: Episode VII* and other amazing prizes in an amazing charitable drive. It's all to help launch the new initiative, *Star Wars: Force for Change*, which is dedicated to finding creative solutions to problems facing children in need around the world.

For a \$10 donation, fans were automatically entered to win this amazing once-in-a-lifetime experience. The first *Star Wars: Force for Change* campaign will raise funds and awareness for UNICEF's Innovation Labs and its projects benefiting children in need.

The campaign closes at 11:59pm PST on July 18.

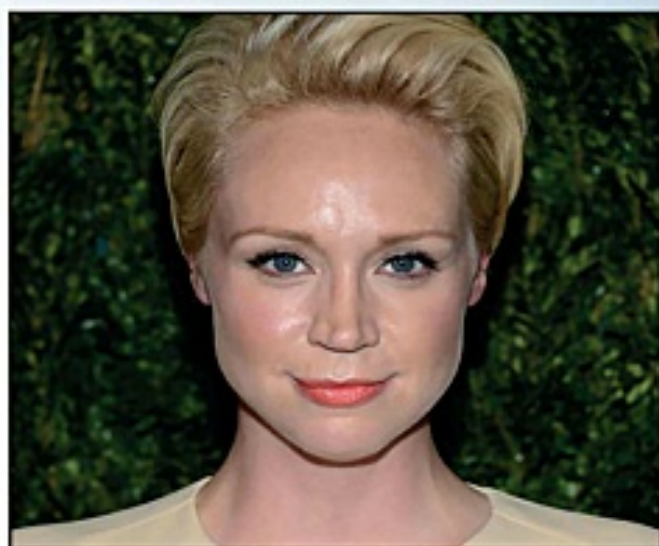
MORE TO SAY

For more information, visit
www.omaze.com/StarWars

HAVE YOU?

EPISODE VII'S CAST EXPANDS!

TWO NEW ACTORS ANNOUNCED



Academy Award-winning actress Lupita Nyong'o has joined the cast of *Star Wars: Episode VII*. Her breakthrough performance in *12 Years a Slave* earned her an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress. She was last seen alongside Qui-Gon Jinn himself, Liam Neeson, in the hit action-movie *Non-Stop*.

Gwendoline Christie, who currently stars in the hit television series *Game of Thrones* as Brienne of Tarth, has also joined the cast. She can next be seen in *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay—Part 2*.

"I could not be more excited about Lupita and Gwendoline joining the cast of Episode VII," says Lucasfilm president, and Episode VII producer, Kathleen Kennedy. "It's thrilling to see this extraordinarily talented ensemble taking shape."

MORE TO SAY

Both actresses have verified twitter accounts and can be found at:

@Lupita_Nyong'o
@Gwendoline

HAVE YOU?

FALCON? WHAT FALCON?

J.J. ABRAMS STRIKES BACK!

After several behind-the-scenes photos were leaked from the *Star Wars: Episode VII* set, writer/director J.J. Abrams responded in his own inimitable fashion! Source: @bad_robot



STOP PRESS!



As we were going to press, the UK's Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, has tweeted that the first stand-alone *Star Wars* feature film will be shot at Pinewood Studios in England. Photo: @George_Osborne

STAR WARS STAND-ALONE CREATIVE LEADS ANNOUNCED

GARETH EDWARDS AND GARY WHITTA

In addition to the episodes of a new *Star Wars* trilogy, Lucasfilm has begun development on multiple stand-alone movies that will offer new stories beyond the core Saga. Gareth Edwards will direct the first stand-alone film, with a screenplay by Gary Whitta. The film is due out December 16, 2016.

Gareth Edwards blazed into the filmmaking forefront with his acclaimed work on *Monsters*, a film he wrote, directed, and served on as cinematographer and visual effects artist. The skill and vision readily apparent in *Monsters* earned him the high-profile spot directing this year's smash hit *Godzilla*.

"Ever since I saw *Star Wars* I knew exactly what I wanted to do for the rest of my life—join the Rebel Alliance! I could not be



more excited and honored to go on this mission with Lucasfilm," said Edwards.

Gary Whitta's screenwriting credits include 2010's *The Book of Eli* starring Denzel Washington. He is also well known as a journalist and editor in the videogame industry, as well as part of the BAFTA award-winning team on Telltale Games' adaptation of *The Walking Dead*.

Whitta says, "From the moment I first saw the original movie as a wide-eyed kid, *Star Wars* has been the single most profound inspiration to my

imagination and to my career as a writer. It is deeply special to me, so to be given the opportunity to contribute to its ongoing legacy, especially in collaboration with a filmmaker as talented as Gareth, is literally a dream come true. I'm still pinching myself."

JOSH TRANK

The second stand-alone movie will be directed by Josh Trank.

"We're thrilled to welcome Josh into the family," says Lucasfilm president Kathleen Kennedy. "He is such an incredible talent and has a great imagination and sense of innovation. That makes him perfectly suited to *Star Wars*, and for this new slate of movies that reach beyond the core characters and storylines of Episodes I through IX."

Trank says, "The magic of the *Star Wars* universe defined my entire childhood. The opportunity to expand on that experience for future generations is the most incredible dream of all time."

The 30-year-old director captured imaginations worldwide with his critically lauded directorial debut *Chronicle*, a fresh and engaging take on the superhero genre. Trank is currently at work on *Fantastic Four* for 20th Century Fox.



NEW LEIA TOYS ON THE WAY!



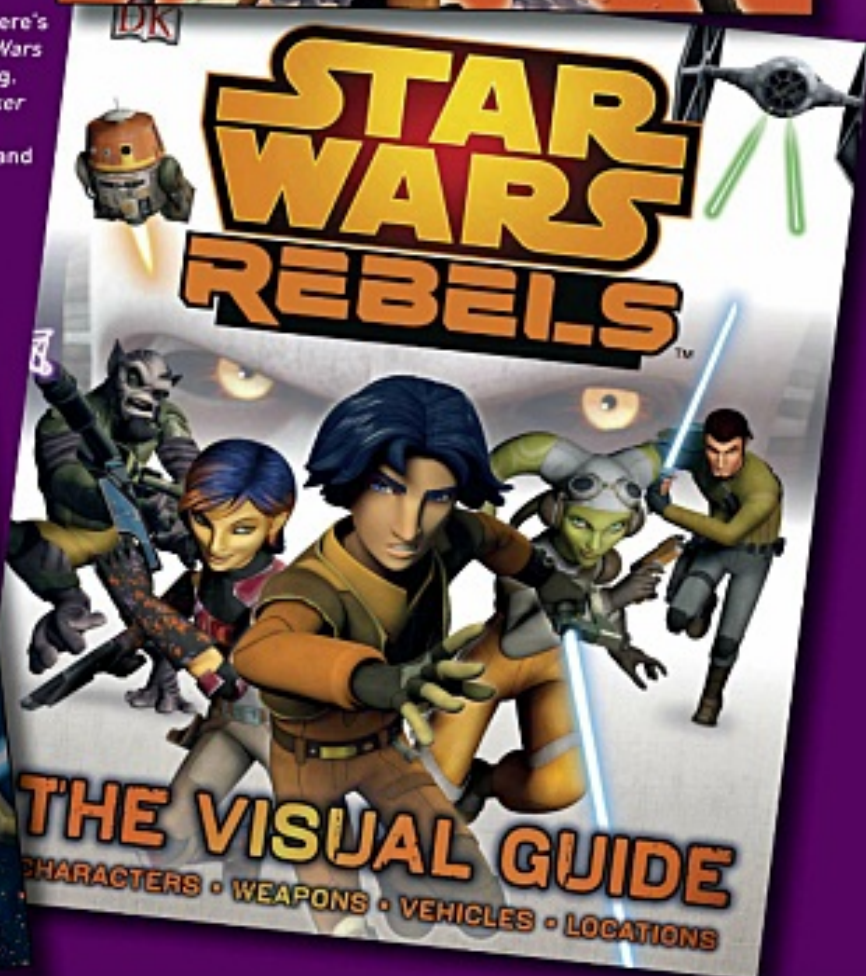
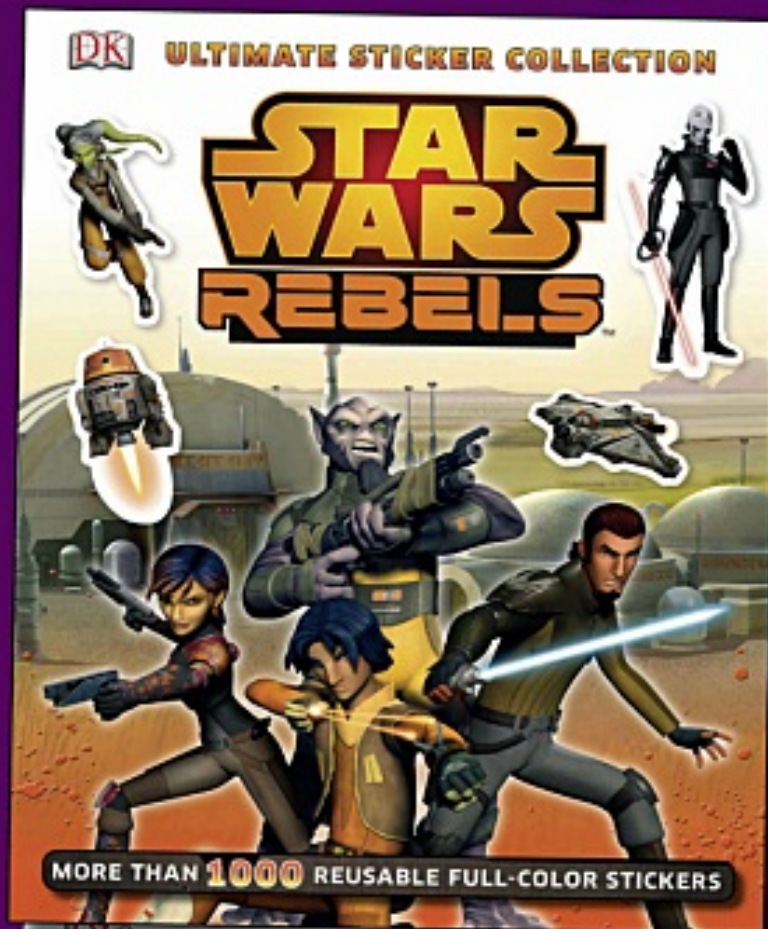
Disney has announced that Princess Leia toys are to be added to its existing *Star Wars* merchandise line for sale in Disney stores soon.

This follows criticism from parents and members of the fangirl community about the lack of products featuring female characters. Disney spokeswoman Margita Thompson says, "We're excited to be rolling out new products in the coming months, including several items that will feature Princess Leia, one of the most iconic characters in the *Star Wars* galaxy."

CAPTURE THE REBELS

Excited about the *Star Wars* animated series *Rebels*? Here's your chance to take home a set of fantastic new *Star Wars Rebels* books, courtesy of our friends at DK Publishing. The books include: *Meet the Rebels*, *The Ultimate Sticker Collection*, and *The Visual Guide*!

Write in to the address on page three before September 9 and label correspondence, "I'm a rebel friend!"





C-3PO'S COMMUNICATION STATION!

WELCOME TO *STAR WARS INSIDER*'S LETTERS PAGE! WRITE IN WITH AN ENTERTAINING LETTER, AND, IF WE PRINT IT, WE'LL SEND YOU A FANTASTIC SIGNED *STAR WARS* PHOTO FROM OUR FRIENDS AT OFFICIAL PIX!



WHO KNEW?

In response to Jen Tucker's question about how many people knew about Anakin Skywalker becoming Darth Vader [see issue #149—Ed], I would like to add some more names to the list! Luke and Leia knew about Darth Vader's true identity near the end of *Return of the Jedi*, and I find it impossible to believe that R2 didn't know—he seems to know everything!

—Terry Friesen, by email

Very true, Terry! Thanks for adding to the list! Does anyone have more names?



Young Chance (above and left) meets the troops; Terry questions how much R2-D2 knows (above left, with Chancellor Palpatine); Jose declares his appreciation of *Tales of the Jedi* (below, right).

physical repercussions. Again, Chance proved them wrong.

Today, he is an active boy who is a huge *Star Wars* fan, and I'm sure he'll be over the moon to see the latest *Star Wars* movie when it comes out. He attends a school for the hearing impaired year-round, and recently had several pictures taken with *Star Wars* characters on an outing with his dad.—Geri Muholland, Salem, Oregon

Always good to hear a story of triumph against adversity! Thanks for sending this one in, Geri!

COMIC BOOK CLASSICS!

In the last issue of the *Star Wars Insider* you asked readers to write in about their favorite *Star Wars* comic book. Well there have been a lot of comics from *The Star Wars* to the *Infinity* series and *Dark*

Empire, but my all-time favorite is *Tales of the Jedi: Redemption*.

It is, without doubt, one of the most powerful stories I have ever read and is brilliantly written by Kevin J. Anderson. You have to read the other *Tales of the Jedi* stories to fully appreciate it. The final story of this series is about Ulic Qel-Droma, but it's also the story of Nomi Sunrider and her daughter, Vima. The final page of this story still gives me a lump in my throat every time I read it.

Dark Horse Comics has provided 23 years of excellent *Star Wars* stories. I will miss them, but I'm also very curious to see what Marvel has planned for the saga! Jose Steenwijk, The Netherlands

Thanks for writing in, Jose. We hope you're enjoying our series on the making of *Tales of the Jedi* (see page 32)!



A CHANCE IN A MILLION!

My grandson, Chance, has been beating the odds since before he was born. My daughter, Jamila, said his birth was a miracle because the chances of her being able to carry him to term were slim.

As a toddler, Chance was a funny, creative little man and his favorite movie was *Hairspray*, much to the chagrin of his father, Jason, no doubt. When he was about a year and a half, his other grandma, Patti, took him to the doctor because he kept spiking a fever. Doctors later said it was extremely lucky for him because he had a seizure with the beginnings of meningitis.

After months in the children's intensive care unit, Chance began to recover, much to the amazement of hospital staff as his recovery was very much in question. Or if he did recover, there was the chance of him having brain damage, as well as other

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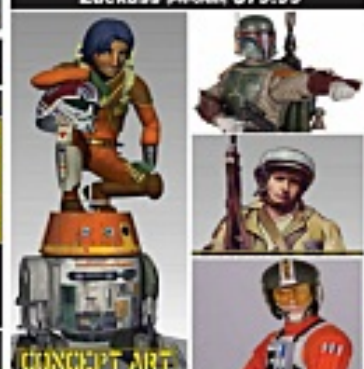
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HERA

A NEW BREED OF

HERO

BEFORE HER PART AS HERA SYNDULLA IN *STAR WARS REBELS* HAS EVEN AIRED, ACTRESS VANESSA MARSHALL IS ALREADY A HUGE HIT WITH FANS! *INSIDER* MET THE LADY HERSELF FOR A CHAT AHEAD OF THE SERIES' HOTLY ANTICIPATED DEBUT!
WORDS: JONATHAN WILKINS

Star Wars Insider: You recently appeared at Star Wars Weekends—you're the queen of the Star Wars selfies—how did it all go?
Vanessa Marshall: I had so much fun; it was epic. Really, I could not believe the fans' reaction; it was heaven on earth. Everyone is just so jolly about the whole thing, and really into it in a way that's so kind and loving. You know, some are Sith, some are Jedi, but we all get along!



Actress Vanessa Marshall, the voice of Hera Syndulla.





Your mom, Joan Van Ark, played the title role in the *Spider-Woman* animated series in the late 1970s. Was that an influence in you doing voice acting? Not at all. When I was growing up, my mom was the voice of Estée Lauder and she did a few cartoons, but her career was mostly on camera. I wasn't even aware that she specifically played Spider-Woman until I googled

"WHEN I GOT THE PART OF HERA, I CRIED TEARS OF JOY... IT'S A NERD'S DREAM COME TRUE."

it and discovered that we had a similar background!

I actually fell into voice acting quite accidentally. I was doing sketch comedy

when an agent discovered me in 1997, and I've been working ever since.

What was the audition process for *Rebels* like?

I got called in for a voiceover audition for a project called "Wolf." I felt like it could be *Star Wars*,

but I thought I wouldn't be so fortunate; I thought there were elements of the Rebel Alliance in the text. For example, my character was fighting against the



Hera takes the controls of the *Ghost*; below, a production maquette created to let the *Rebels* team know what the character will look like in 3D.

"Tyranny," and I wondered if that might be the Empire.

I remember saying to my friends, "Do you think this is *Star Wars*?" and they thought I was crazy for even suggesting it. When I got a call back, however, and I saw a picture of a Twi'lek on the wall, I almost passed out! I was right! I drove away thinking, Well, if nothing else happens in my life, getting called back for *Star Wars* is probably the highlight right there!

When I got the part, I cried tears of joy. I kept saying, "How'd I get so lucky? How'd I get so lucky?" I am beyond grateful. It's a nerd's dream come true.

Can you tell us about Hera and her place in the show?

Hera is at the heart of the *Ghost* crew. She is both an ace pilot and a skilled fighter. She is the getaway driver, and, while she is a tough cookie, she also manages to be quite nurturing, if not maternal, as she guides and inspires her band of "rebels."

Hera could probably manage alone, but she prefers to fight crime throughout the galaxy with her chosen dysfunctional family. She selected each person for specific reasons. Sabine is a weapons expert and can speak many languages. Kanan is a Jedi, and Ezra is his Padawan. It never hurts to have a couple of Jedi on board! Zeb offers pure might and brawn, while Chopper keeps things running—that little guy can take out a few TIE fighters in a pinch!

Were you given a backstory for Hera?

There were a few things mentioned, but I'm not at liberty to discuss the specifics. I think it's going to be really cool for viewers to find out more about each character's backstory. They've all been maligned by the Empire, and we will soon discover their very personal reasons for rebelling against it. The characters themselves will learn these things about each other as the story unfolds, so it's not out in the open... yet.

Dave Filoni is a great ambassador for *Star Wars*, but I wondered what makes him such a good supervising director?

Well, I think it's a number of things.



Vanessa greets two young fans at Disney's Star Wars Weekends!

In addition to his familiarity with the saga in its entirety, Dave has a way of trusting the actors to do what they do best. He allows us to do our thing and then comments afterward. What's really cool about Dave is he's from Pittsburgh, plays hockey, likes the Steelers—he's a guy's guy. I really like directors who are perhaps more blunt and just shoot from the hip, because why waste time, really? Dave is wise and chooses his words carefully, and as a result he gets the job done quickly. I also think the way he gathers the cast before each session—almost like we're in a locker room before a big game—helps to focus the group.

We basically get together, and he tells us why this episode's arc is vital

**"WHEN I SAW THE LITTLE
LEGO STAR WARS HERA
FIGURE... IT WAS THE COOLEST
THING EVER!"**

in terms of the next step of the narrative. We huddle up and then we go for it! It's a lot of fun. I think when a cast is having such a good time, the viewers can feel that energy and ultimately they will enjoy the show even more. It all



The *Hera* the Rebel ship piloted by Hera Syndulla.



starts with Dave, igniting that spark for all of us.

Did Hera look exactly how you expected?

No. I thought she would look more like Sigourney Weaver! But I am thrilled that she is a Twi'lek. There's a false perception that Twi'leks are mostly slave dancers. People forget brave characters such as the Jedi Aayla Secura or the courageous Twi'lek fighters in the Ryloth arc of *The Clone Wars* like Cham Syndulla.

It's unfair to generalize, but many of my friends say "Oh you're like the girl who dances for Jabba?" And I say, "No, I'm not."

Will you be saving all the Hera collectibles?

I'm on it, man! When I saw the little LEGO Star Wars Hera figure at the Toy Fair in Germany, you should have seen the dance I did! I mean the footwork was exceptional! It was just the coolest thing ever.... 🕺

MORE TO SAY

Follow Vanessa Marshall on Twitter @vanmarshall and be sure to read *Star Wars Insider* #152 for more from Vanessa and the cast and crew of *Star Wars Rebels*!

HAVE YOU?

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MY STAR WARS

AS GENERAL CRIX MADINE, IRISH BORN ACTOR **DERMOT CROWLEY** HELPED LEAD THE FINAL PUSH AGAINST THE EMPIRE IN *RETURN OF THE JEDI*.
INTERVIEW BY **MARK NEWBOLD**

What was your reaction to seeing *Star Wars* for the very first time?

It was extraordinary, because there had been nothing like it before. I think that's the big achievement; that's why it's lasted so long and become iconic, because it was groundbreaking.

What do you love about being a *Star Wars* celebrity?

It's for others to judge whether I'm a celebrity or not, but at the time, it was like any other acting job. I didn't fully comprehend. I hadn't seen either of the previous movies before I did *Return of the Jedi*. Once I did it I caught up with them! I realized as time went on how huge the whole thing is, and it's only grown exponentially ever since. Someone once asked me the same question and I said, "Well I wasn't too aware of how big the operation I was involved in." And he said, "You're a part of movie history now whether you like it or not!" which I thought was a wonderful thing to say. I'm delighted to be a part a worldwide phenomenon!

When did you first become aware of *Star Wars* fandom?

I wasn't aware of it for quite a while until I started getting fan letters, and they sort of built up and grew. Even though General Madine is quite a minor character, in terms of the overall universe he's got quite a big story. I didn't realize how important he is in the novels. He's got a backstory! As the fan letters increased, the more I tried to keep up with the books.

I was at a convention in Chicago several years ago and these two fans approached. If you saw them on the street you might have crossed to the other side. They were heavily tattooed; they had rings, and looked like very tough boys. I'll never forget their names: They were called Nathan and Jake. They were the politest guys I'd ever met and one of them said, "George Lucas is our father. When we were little boy, our dad left our mom and she had to raise two little boys on her own. We learned everything we know about right and wrong from *Star Wars*. Thank you for being a part of that universe." Those of us who were lucky enough to be in it have a kind of a responsibility. It's touched so many people's lives in such a profound way.

Do you have a favorite scene?

The sequences of Madine on the bridge of the frigate that ended up on the cutting room floor are my favorite. Lucasfilm released a picture from that sequence to me recently [the scene can be seen on the *Return of the Jedi* Blu-ray and the enhanced ebook of the *Making of Return of the Jedi*—Ed]. I had great fun doing it. I was flying against a bluescreen and I got to say, "May the Force be with you!"



Can you reveal something about yourself that would surprise a *Star Wars* fan?

I once played a mad priest who used to do Joan Collins impersonations in the classic Channel 4 TV show *Father Ted*.

What is the best gift *Star Wars* has given to you?

It's taken me all over the world. I've met an enormous number of interesting people. The fans range from students to a judge; I've met a brain surgeon who is a fan!

Which is your favorite *Star Wars* film?

It's got to be *Return of the Jedi*. ☺



FAN



Clockwise, from top:
George Takei
Candice Carroll
Keaton Chee


WOMEN HAVE BEEN SHARING THEIR PASSION FOR *STAR WARS* SINCE 1977. TRICIA BARR TAKES A JOURNEY THROUGH THE HISTORY OF FANDOM TO UNCOVER WHAT MAKES THE FRANCHISE SPECIAL TO... FANGIRLS!

What makes *Star Wars* so special to you?" That question was posed to me last year in a context I never would have expected. Weeks before, I had experienced a brief moment of panic when I realized I would be out of the country for a family vacation to Peru and the Galapagos Islands on the day *Star Wars* fans celebrate the franchise. Despite the gnawing fear that I would miss having fun with my fannish friends or an epic news announcement, I reminded myself I would be swimming with turtles and penguins—and sharks, too, as it turned out—on May the Fourth. As that day drew to a close, I sat curled up in the lounge, catching up on the fandom news in my Darth Vader pajama bottoms and *Millennium Falcon* T-shirt. Another woman from our tour had slipped onto the sofa, curious about what had me interested enough to surf the Internet after an amazing day.

The obvious subtext to her question was, "What makes *Star Wars* so special to you as a woman?"

On one hand, I'm used to the qualification: the media has declared *Star Wars* is for boys for as long as I can remember. My experiences as a fan since 1977 prove otherwise, and sometimes that sentiment elicits images of Darth Vader—upon learning that Padmé is dead—breaking free and shouting, "Nooooo!" That isn't the way of the Jedi, though. Having been inspired by *Star Wars* to tell stories, I would like to take you on a journey through time and fandom, where the ladies have been all along.

FLYING HIGH!

A full-page photograph of a woman cosplaying as Jaina Solo. She is wearing a black and yellow Starline armor suit, including a chest plate, gauntlets, and thigh guards. She is holding a silver lightsaber in her right hand and is in a dynamic, lunging pose on a metal grate floor. The background consists of a grey wall with horizontal slats, through which bright light is streaming, creating a dramatic effect. The woman has long brown hair and is looking towards the camera with a determined expression.

This page: Fangirl
Shea Stender strikes
a pose cosplaying as
Jaina Solo. Photo by
Robert Barker
Opposite page
(Inset): Tricia Borr
poses in her
attention-grabbing
Mara Jade T-shirt!

FANGIRL ORIGINS

Revenge of the Sith's shot of Darth Vader pouring rage into the Force harkens back to the iconic monster in *Frankenstein*. In author Mary Shelley's introduction to the novel, she writes of the waking dream that inspired the tale: "Frightful must it be; for supremely frightful would be the effect of any human endeavor to mock the stupendous mechanism of the Creator of the world." Shelley wrote that when she was a teenage girl, yet her story ponders questions about humanity and tackles philosophical quandaries ranging from identity to free will. In the wise words of Master Yoda, "Truly wonderful, the mind of child is"—as Shelley created a book considered the foundation for modern science-fiction. Shelley's lasting influence on pop culture shows just how much the notion that girls aren't interested in genre storytelling is blind to its origins. Franchises such as *Harry Potter* and *The Hunger Games* have come to the fore, written by women, and fueled by legions

"THEY LET [LEIA] HAVE A GUN—AND THEY LET HER SHOOT IT, AND HIT SOMEONE!"

of female fans who read the books, watched the movies, and were inspired to their own creativity. They weren't the first modern-age fangirls, though.

A PRINCESS WITH POWER

Maggie Nowakowska worked for a small publishing house in 1977. She had been immersed in *Star Trek* fandom, creating her own stories and interacting with other fans through fanzines and local gatherings. In mid-May of that year, Maggie attended the Library Association Book Fair. At the Ballantine booth stood an imposing black-clad figure to whom attendees gave wide berth as they moved past down the aisle. Intrigued by the imposing presentation that revealed Darth Vader, she went with friends to





see *Star Wars* and left the theater thinking, *This is what I've been waiting for!*

When Maggie talks about *Star Wars*, it isn't one thing that struck her fancy. On Princess Leia, she noticed, "They let her have a gun—and they let her shoot it, and hit someone." Both Obi-Wan Kenobi and the *Millennium Falcon* were her favorite characters. Neither Maggie nor her friends believed Old Ben's story told to Luke Skywalker in his Tatooine hut, and they spent many hours pondering the puzzle of the Jedi's words. The *Millennium Falcon* was a place she could imagine spending her time, where she could fit her favorite books and zip off to different corners of the galaxy. *Star Wars* touched upon her personal passions of history and philosophy; she was enamored of the film's mix of myth and livability.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, communicating wasn't as easy as dropping a tweet or email to a fellow fan on the other side of the world. Long distance phone calls were expensive. Maggie exchanged letters with fellow fans, some up to 10 pages long. She read and wrote for fanzines, many of them run by women. Female fans, Maggie notes, were determined to get stories out with female Jedi. Just like male fans, they wanted to explore all the possibilities the movie left open: Was the Empire really bad? How did the politics of the Republic lead to the incidents shown in the movie? Were the Sith truly evil, or was Darth Vader simply a bad apple? Imagine, then, trying to have these discussions via letterzines, where the best turned around about every two months. For fans today—who can debate the motivations of characters in real time or the inherent evil in an Empire at length on message boards—that kind of discussion lag would seem like a lifetime.

While the rise of the Internet has its obvious advantages, Maggie's generation had experiences that today's fans can only dream of: fan trivia games run by *Return of the Jedi* director Richard Marquand, lunch at a film seminar with "Larry"—as in screenwriter Lawrence Kasdan—and others that make me too jealous to mention. In 2014, fans will likely only ever see a *Star Wars* screenwriter in a venue like Hall H at Comic-Con International: San Diego or catch glimpses of J.J. Abrams on television or a red carpet.

With the evolution of the Internet into Web 2.0, hierarchically moderated message boards have given way to blogs and social media. Venues like Twitter and Tumblr have allowed female fans to



Clockwise, from left: The first lady of *Star Wars*, Carrie Fisher, strikes a familiar pose; the first fangirl, Maggie Newakowski at the start of *Star Wars* fandom; the new generation of fangirls; Jedi Master Aayla Secura in command; proud fangirl Adrianne Curry harnesses the dark side!



LADIES WITH LIGHTSABERS

The saga has been shaped by many strong female influences over the years. By no means a definitive list, here are some key players.

Carrie Fisher (Leia, *Star Wars* original trilogy, Episode VII)

Marcia Lucas (editor, *Star Wars* original trilogy)

Carol Titelman (original Lucas Licensing editor)

Judy Lynn Del Rey (founder Del Rey publishing, publisher of *Star Wars* books)

Natalie Portman (Padmé, the prequel trilogy)

Ashley Eckstein (Ahsoka Tano *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*, *Her Universe*)

Catherine Taber (Padmé, *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*)

Katie Lucas (writer, *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*)

Amy Beth Christenson (Concept artist LucasArts, *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* and *Star Wars Rebels*)

Jan Duursema (comic book artist, *Star Wars: Legacy* and *Star Wars: Dawn of the Jedi*)

Kathleen Kennedy (president of Lucasfilm, producer *Star Wars* Episode VII)

Athena Portillo (line producer *Star Wars Rebels*)

Vanessa Marshall (Hera, *Star Wars Rebels*)

Tiya Sizar (Sabine Wren, *Star Wars Rebels*)

express their passion to VIPs, the fandom, and the general public in ways male fans often have taken for granted.

The interactive Internet is a double-edged sword, though. The collective fandom will never again experience anything as shocking and dramatic as the end of *The Empire Strikes Back*. Some of the greatest stories are journeys of self-discovery, and after the end-credits rolled for Episode V, fans had three years to ponder the infinite possibilities woven from Darth Vader's revelation to Luke Skywalker. Our response to a movie now is as much about the Internet's reaction as it is about the actual experience.

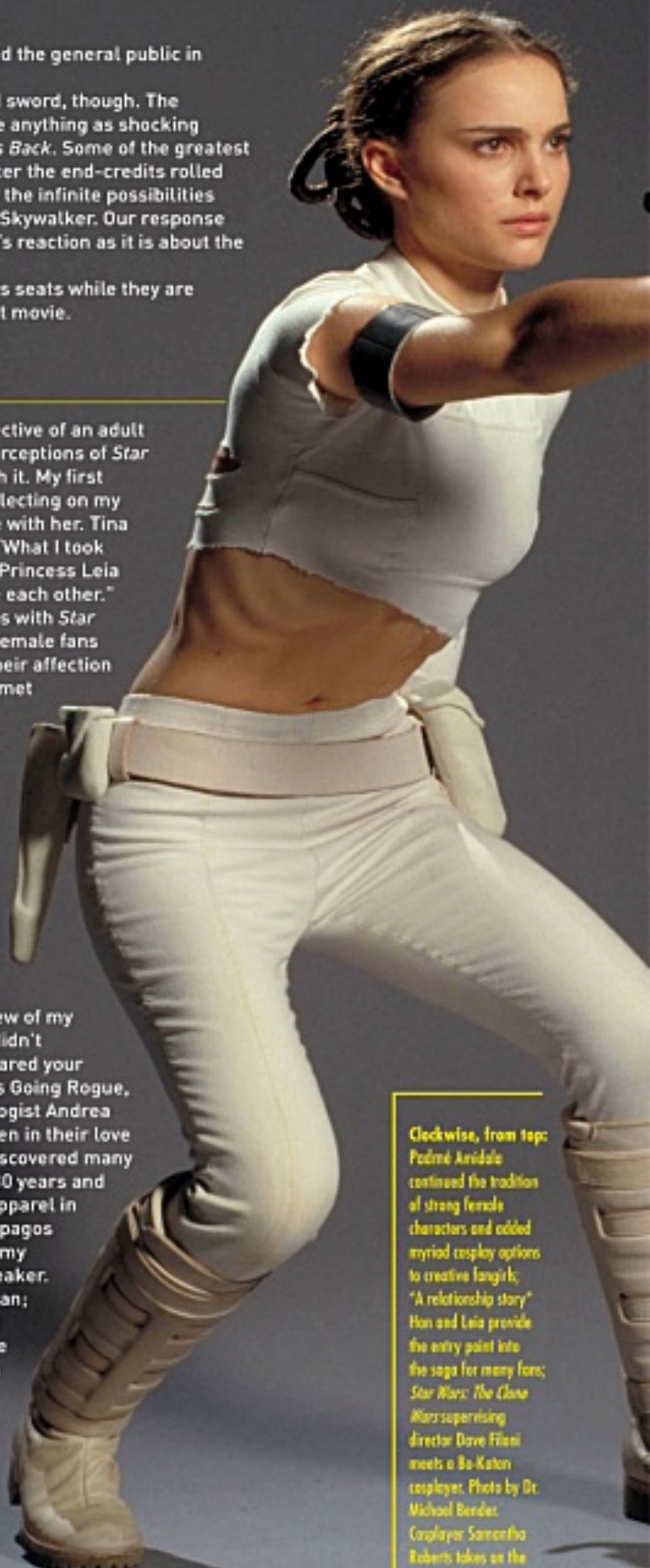
Fans tweet before they leave their theater seats while they are waiting for the end-credits teaser for the next movie.

A "RELATIONSHIP STORY"

Having observed the fandom from the perspective of an adult since the beginning, Maggie believes fans' perceptions of *Star Wars* are shaped by their first experience with it. My first experience with *Star Wars* was as a child. Reflecting on my own fannish tendencies, I'm inclined to agree with her. Tina Fey told Craig Ferguson in a 2011 interview, "What I took from *Star Wars* was kind of the Han Solo and Princess Leia relationship story. You know, they kind of like each other." As a writer on *30 Rock*, Fey infused her stories with *Star Wars* references. Over the last few decades, female fans who engage in any franchise by expressing their affection for a particular relationship often have been met with derision. Being a 'shipper myself, the effect of seeing a successful woman like Fey admit that the Han-Leia relationship drew her to *Star Wars* serves as a reminder that romance is a natural way fans connect with stories. From *Cinderella* to *Frozen* and *Twilight* to *The Hunger Games*, two characters and their struggles to be together can create a powerful bond between fan and franchise. In that same interview, Fey shared her favorite *Star Wars* toy: the *Millennium Falcon*. I imagine, like Maggie, she might have created a few adventures playing with it. I've dreamt up a few of my own. Close in age to Fey, I know having toys didn't necessarily equate to meeting others who shared your passion. In interviews on my podcast *Fangirls Going Rogue*, both actress Clare Grant and clinical psychologist Andrea Letamendi admit to feeling isolated as children in their love of *Star Wars*, but, over the years, they have discovered many women with similar passions. Fast-forward 30 years and I had so many choices of *Star Wars*-themed apparel in my closet that packing for my trip to the Galapagos proved challenging. As it turned out, rocking my fangirl flair in a tour group was a great icebreaker. I didn't have to tell anyone I was a *Star Wars* fan; they knew it from my clothes—and everyone had a *Star Wars* story to share with me. By the second day, I'd made a new friend—a woman about Maggie's age—and, like Maggie, she was a longtime science-fiction fan, who never in her wildest dreams imagined there would be anything quite as awesome as the Princess Leia hoodie I was wearing.

FAN GROUPS

Considering this age of social media and *Star Wars* T-shirts, it's remarkable how much in-person interactions still matter as much as they always have. At Celebration VI in Orlando, Dark Horse editor Randy Stradley told me about the *Star Ladies*, an organization that had been integral to *Star Wars* conventions and fandom.



Clockwise, from top: Padmé Amidala continued the tradition of strong female characters and added myriad cosplay options to creative fangirls; "A relationship story" Han and Leia provide the entry point into the saga for many fans; *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* supervising director Dave Filoni meets a Be-Katton cosplayer. Photo by Dr. Michael Bender. Cosplayer Samantha Roberts takes on the role of Ahsoka Tano to the delight of fellow convention-goers.



Later John "Dak" Morton detailed his trip to the 1998 Star Ladies' convention on the *Star Wars* Blog, emphasizing how smart and dynamic the female fanbase has always been, as the women shared their creative works and talked about the galaxy far, far away.

I met Maggie in 2013 when we both attended GeekGirlCon, an annual Seattle gathering to celebrate the female fan; we were introduced by a journalist we both know. At this convention, I met the most amazing women, including fangirl advocate Ashley Eckstein, voice of Ahsoka Tano in *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* and founder of Her Universe, a company that has given girls and women the opportunity to flaunt their fandom. From the Star Ladies conventions to GeekGirlCon, female fans have been expressing their fandom in the same way men long have been acknowledged at larger conventions: cosplaying as Jedi, Sith, X-wing, and TIE pilots, stormtroopers, and bounty hunters; telling fan fictions like Kyle Newman's radio drama *Smuggler's Gambit* highlighted in *Star Wars Insider* #139; and sharing their insights on topical panels.

Each generation brings a fresh new perspective to fandom. Webmaster of ClubJade.net, Tracy Duncan shared with the Full of Sith podcast how she discovered the Original Trilogy movies on VHS over Christmas break in 1991, but found her passion in *Heir to the Empire* and the Expanded Universe. She was interacting with fellow fans on AOL forums in the earliest Internet days, and operates a respected fan-site that started as a fan-fiction repository and now covers news, speculation, and fandom. My *Fangirls Going Rogue* co-host Teresa Delgado proudly admits her best fandom moments were discovered in the prequel trilogy and has become an enthusiastic advocate for fankids. Journalist and longtime geek Amy Ratcliffe found her *Star Wars* passion during *The Clone Wars*. As part of the all-female Team Unicorn, Clare Grant has led the way in showcasing how women can express their fandom, either through fan films or exceptional cosplay. Andrea Letamendi has hosted popular panels about the psychology of cosplay and the parallel themes of *Star Wars* and *Star Trek* at San Diego Comic-Con, WonderCon, and GeekGirlCon.

Recently, I took another grand adventure with my family, although much closer to home. My four-year-old niece shares the same name as that original *Star Wars* fangirl, Maggie, and this trip was about creating her first memories of Disney World. Of course, a ride on Star Tours with a *Star Wars*-crazy aunt was inevitable. We laughed and giggled all the way off the ride, where we stumbled upon the Jedi Training Academy. My niece watched in awe as other children donned Jedi robes and wielded their lightsabers against the imposing might of Darth Vader—and she exclaimed, "I want to do that. I can beat him." Two days later, Maggie did. Her journey as a *Star Wars* fangirl is just beginning... 🌟

MORE TO SAY

Follow Tricia Barr on Twitter @fangirlcantina or her website FANGirlBlog.com.

HAVE YOU?



EXCLUSIVE!

GROWING UP WITH THE FORCE



THE FORCE IS STRONG WITH AUTHOR AND ARTIST JEFFREY BROWN. GIVEN THAT HIS *STAR WARS* BOOKS ARE A HUGE SUCCESS, HE HAS TWO MORE OUT THIS SUMMER: *GOODNIGHT DARTH VADER* FROM CHRONICLE BOOKS AND *JEDI ACADEMY 2* FROM SCHOLASTIC. *STAR WARS INSIDER* TALKS TO JEFFREY ABOUT HOW IT'S ALL GOING—AND GETS A SNEAK PEEK AT SOME UPCOMING IDEAS...

INTERVIEW BY MARTIN EDEN

Star Wars Insider: Your output seems to be increasing! Wherever do you find the time?
Jeffrey Brown: By not sleeping! Sometimes I can't believe how much I've drawn the last few years, but it comes from a pretty well-established work ethic, and I work on multiple projects at once to keep momentum going.

What has the fans' response been like on your *Star Wars* books?
The response has been—and continues to be—unbelievable, especially from kids. They're particularly keen to know what's happening next in *Jedi Academy*, and have lots of ideas they want me to use. A lot of them ask if they can be a character in the next volume.

Goodnight Darth Vader shows how the *Star Wars* characters go to sleep. Did you have a particular favorite scenario in the book?
I'm really happy with the sequence of the Ewoks trying to get the stormtroopers to be quiet, so the baby Ewok can get to sleep.



the tauntauns are sleeping,
trying to stay warm

~~Goodnight tauntauns,~~
~~trying to stay warm~~



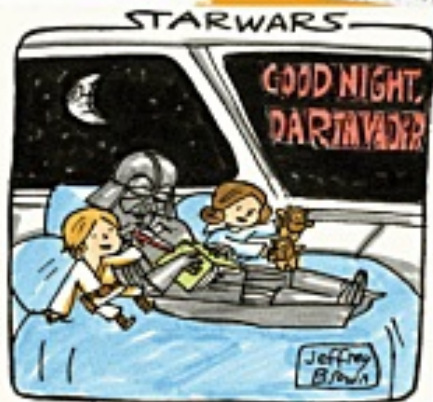
↑ switch to interior
Echo Base
Tauntaun eyeing Luke w/
light saber suspiciously

and so is the wampa
with only one arm

~~goodnight wampa,~~
~~with only one arm~~



YAWN.



ABOVE AND BELOW: SOME IDEAS
THAT DIDN'T MAKE GOODNIGHT,
DARTH VADER. LEFT: AN UNUSED
COVER CONCEPT.

Hee hee!

Goodnight Han Solo
and the Wookiee...

SNORRRRE



...goodnight hive of
wretched scum and
villainy



Goodnight Ewoks!

SHHHH!



Goodnight Yoda!

Rest, I need



The At-At's haven't settled
down yet



so the Rebels help put
them to bed



THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE:
MORE IDEAS FROM BROWN'S
SKETCHBOOK THAT DIDN'T
QUITE MAKE IT INTO *GOOD-
NIGHT, DARTH VADER*.

What tactics do you use to get your own sons to sleep?
Both my sons seem to have gotten my sleep genes, which means they don't want to go to sleep. So far, reading books before bed works best for us.

Have your sons read any of your *Star Wars* books?

My older son, Oscar, is seven, so he's read and enjoyed them. He insisted on buying *Jedi Academy* at his school book fair, which is pretty flattering!

Did Lucasfilm, Chronicle or Scholastic have many changes to the books?

Goodnight Darth Vader was straightforward enough that there were only a couple minor changes once I began the final art—although there was a lot of back and forth in figuring out which ideas to use.

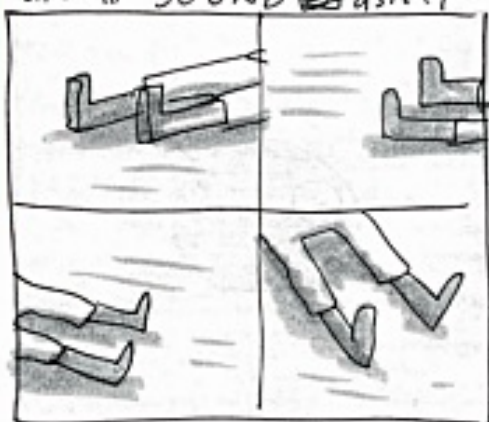
The *Jedi Academy* books are always more involved, and we essentially make three drafts to develop the story. It's still an organic process, so it feels less like having to make changes than figuring out how to make the best story possible.

Goodnight is nicely detailed with very lush coloring. Did it take a long time to do?

It actually only took me about two months to complete the final

28 Imperial commanders
(slow feet?) g'm moff tarkin

~~The Imperia~~ Captain Needa,
Admiral Ozzel, and
are all SOUND asleep

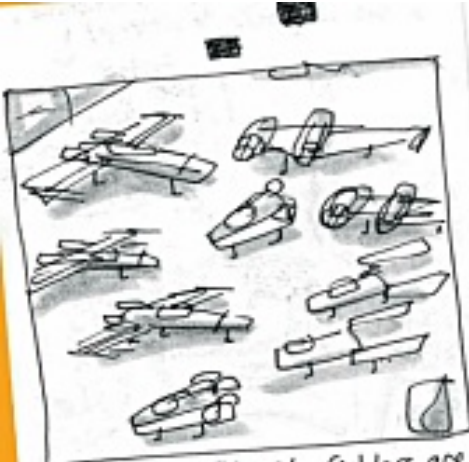


(could just
be one pair (or two?)
of barts close up)

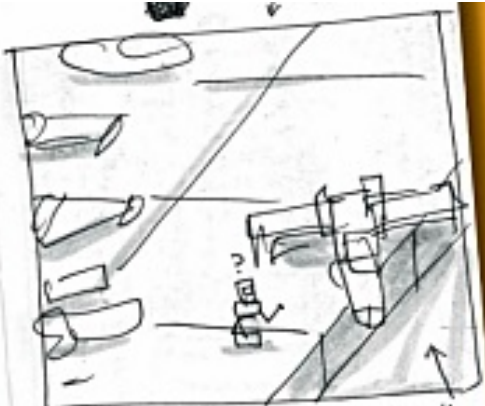
while Grand Moff Tarkin
peacefully dreams



**"I'VE BEEN READING THE OLD MARVEL
COMICS *STAR WARS* BOOKS, AND FIND
MYSELF THINKING ABOUT DRAWING
THE INFAMOUS GREEN RABBIT JAXXON!"**



The Rebel starfighters are parked for the night



Wedge must have been tired, his X-wing's too far to the right

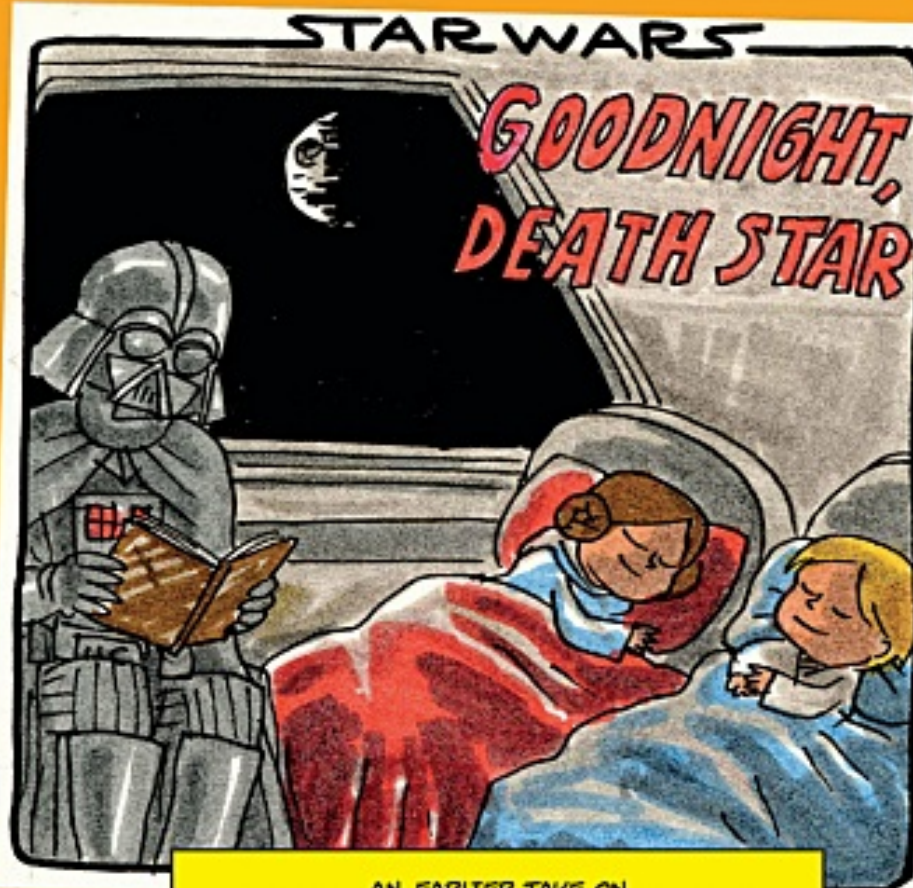
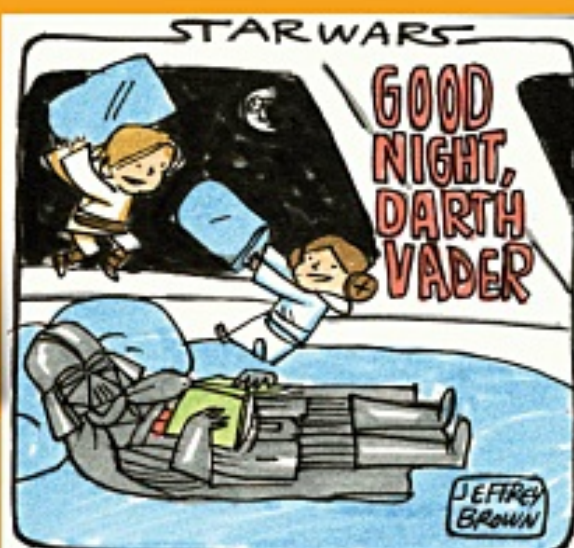
hang off edge



Asleep at his desk, you'll find General Rieekan



and asleep in the trenches are more rebels freezing



AN EARLIER TAKE ON THE GOODNIGHT, DARTH VADER BOOK COVER (THEN CALLED GOODNIGHT, DEATH STAR).

artwork, although that was working at an intense daily pace to finish so the book could come out at San Diego Comic-Con International. Drawing the other Vader books has allowed me to refine my process, so it's fairly quick, even when I'm drawing characters I haven't drawn before.

How do you think you would do at Jedi Academy?

I'm afraid I have a pretty low midi-chlorian count, so I'd probably be transferred out pretty quickly.

Can you give the Wookiee PE teacher Kitmum her own book please? I love her.

I think all Wookiees should get their own books! I think Roan's little brother, Ollie, might get his own book first, though.

You've drawn most of the Star Wars characters now. Are there any favorites left to do?

Not that I can think of, except I've been reading the old Marvel Comics Star Wars books, and find myself thinking about drawing the infamous green rabbit Jaxxon!

You've made a lot of appearances at comic conventions. Is this something you enjoy doing? I do enjoy it, although it's started to wear on me a bit the last couple years, so I'm starting to cut back on



"I DO HEAR FROM PEOPLE WHO'VE BEEN INSPIRED BY MY WORK TO START WRITING OR DRAWING. SO I APPRECIATE BEING ABLE TO HAVE THAT KIND OF POSITIVE EFFECT."

how many events I do. I sometimes forget someone's name, which is followed by my face turning red!

There are a lot of people out there drawing comics in a very Jeffrey Brown way. Is this something you've noticed? I don't know if I do—I think I see a lot of people influenced by the same artists I was influenced by, like Julie Doucet, Chester Brown, John Porcellino, and Charlotte Salomon... I do hear from people who've been inspired by my work to start writing or drawing their own, so I appreciate being able to have that kind of positive effect with my art.

What's coming up on the horizon (Star Wars or otherwise) and can you tease us about what to expect? The next volume of my shape-changing robot parody will be coming out—*Incredible Change-Bots Two Point Something Something* collects all the previously published odds and ends I've drawn, with some extra surprises. I've also started working on a new middle grade series to follow *Jedi Academy*, called *Lucy & Andy Neanderthal*. 🐾



TOP: PAGES FROM BROWN'S *JEDI ACADEMY RETURN OF THE PADAWAN*

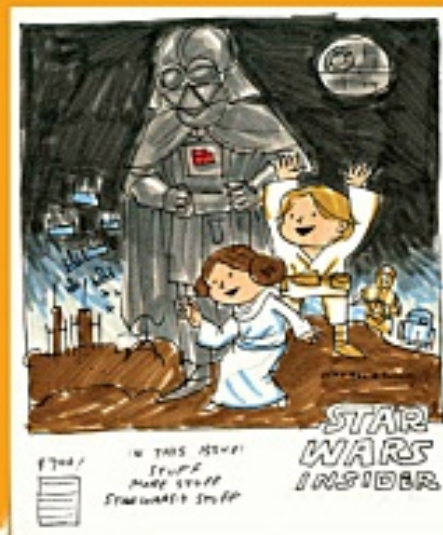
MORE TO SAY

JEDI ACADEMY RETURN OF THE PADAWAN IS AVAILABLE FROM JULY 29
GOODNIGHT DARTH VADER IS AVAILABLE FROM AUGUST 1

HAVE YOU?

JEFFREY BROWN ON CREATING OUR EXCLUSIVE

STAR WARS INSIDER COVER!



FROM TOP: THE COVER TAKES SHAPE AS BROWN'S ART GETS MOVIE POSTER COVERLINES. FAR RIGHT: THE HILDEBRANDT BROTHERS POSTER THAT INSPIRED THE FINAL COVER.

"As soon as *Star Wars Insider* contacted me with the idea of re-imagining one of the *Star Wars* movie posters, I knew I had to do it, whether it ended up in the magazine or not. I briefly tried to see if I could re-draw one of the *Empire Strikes Back* posters, but it didn't fit Vader with little Luke and Leia, as much as I wanted to draw a tauntaun or AT-AT. So I knew the classic original Hildebrandt poster from *A New Hope* had to be the one.

"I drew up a quick sketch, taking the weapons away from Luke and Leia—I try to be careful about how I'm depicting the kids with lightsabers and blasters. It seemed that their body language fit the look of kids just playing, so I exaggerated that a little. I also simplified the background a bit, just to keep things more readable.

"After Lucasfilm and SWI approved the sketch, I penciled up a full-size version, which was also approved.

"In my initial sketch, I wrote filler text for the cover that said, 'Star Wars-y Stuff! And more Star Wars-y Stuff!' Editor Jonathan Wilkins liked this as a joke and wanted to keep it. I wrote out the rest of the cover text, along with a hand-drawn SWI logo, and the design team figured out where it would all be placed. My original idea was that the text would all sit at the bottom like a film poster billing block, but it's a lot more dynamic with the text placed all around the figures.

"By now, I've drawn Vader, little Luke, and little Leia so many times that it didn't take long to finish them. The starry background took a little longer, because I layer the colors to get a more bluish black. All in all, I'm really happy with how the drawing turned out, and can't wait to see it on the magazine!"



AUTHORS OF THE EXPANDED UNIVERSE: MORE TALES OF THE JEDI

BY MICHAEL KOGGE

The Jedi are extinct, their fire has gone out of the universe." Grand Moff Tarkin's words to Darth Vader are a fitting epitaph for the Jedi in the original *Star Wars* trilogy. In a matter of a few years, the Galactic Empire—thanks in large part to Vader and Tarkin—managed to destroy an Order of mystical knights that had persisted for 25 millennia. One could even say that the Imperial purge was so thorough that its effects reached beyond the *Star Wars* galaxy and into our own. Lore about the Jedi Order remained a mystery until a decade after *Return of the Jedi*, when Lucasfilm approved a pitch by Tom Veitch, the writer of the *Dark Empire* comic, and permitted the shroud to be pulled off the tomb of the ancient Jedi. In October 1993, the first issue of Veitch's *Tales of the Jedi* hit the comic book store shelves and would go on for 34 more issues, telling stories set 4,000 years before the adventures of Luke Skywalker.

This page: David Roach's depiction of an ancient Jedi who turned to the dark side.

Opposite page, from left to right: Janine Johnston's panel breakdown, and a sketch of Nomi Sunrider; Nomi Sunrider accepts her Jedi vocation in the cover painting for *Insider* issue #5 by Dave Dorman; Jedi Knight Yara Bonesteel rides Jedi Master Thon. (Pencils by David Roach.)



Old Times, New Visions

Veitch imagined *Tales* to be ongoing and anthological in nature, consisting of different stories about Jedi rather than one continuing narrative focusing on core characters. His concept fit in with the realities and economics of the comic book publishing business, which depended on casual readers being able to pick up random issues of a series and not be confused about what had happened before. Consequently, *Tales* would demand more than one artist to illustrate its pages.

Much in the way a film producer and director casts actors, Veitch and Dark Horse Comics searched far and wide for artistic talent up to the task of retro-engineering this past epoch of the *Star Wars* universe. In the vein of the old Marvel Comics tests, Veitch armed himself with a three-page script that he would give to potential artists at conventions to see if their sketches could match the *Star Wars* style. Because the *Tales* took place millennia before the Empire, the technology, costumes, starships, and backgrounds all had to have an antiquated look, yet also capture the classic *Star Wars* feel. This tall order eventually fell to a team of artists that included Chris Gossett, Janine Johnson, David Roach, and Tony Akins. Gossett would be the first to put his mark on the *Tales* era in the first two issues (see *Insider* #150 for the full story), while the other artists added their own interpretations in the next five issues.

Veitch was proud that *Tales* became a truly collaborative effort. "One of my specialties has always been linking up with artists. The only way I like to do comics is with lots of back-and-forth and give-and-take with the artist. For the very best results, I need to be friends with the artist, and I want the artist to be happy in what he or she is doing."

VEITCH ARMED HIMSELF WITH
A THREE-PAGE SCRIPT THAT
HE WOULD GIVE TO POTENTIAL
ARTISTS AT CONVENTIONS...





Janine Johnston

The third issue of *Tales* diverged from the Ulic Qel-Droma storyline recounted in the first two to tell the origin of Nomi Sunrider, a woman who starts down the Jedi path after her Jedi husband is killed. To bring Nomi into being, Veitch sought out a female artist. He chose young Canadian Janine Johnston, who was a relative newcomer to comics. "I met Tom at a convention in Glasgow," Johnston recalls. "He believed in my work and had the patience to plug along as I gradually got the hang of storytelling, as I was really more of an illustrator. Comics were very intimidating to me at the time!"

Johnston took the assignment with enthusiasm, inspired by the artwork of Veitch's partner on *Dark Empire*, Cam Kennedy, and legendary *Star Wars* concept artist Ralph McQuarrie. "He was the foundation of the realm, visually," she says of McQuarrie. "But his technical abilities were so beyond me he might as well have been in a different Universe!"

Anatomy, often difficult for many artists to portray realistically, came natural to Johnston. She modeled Nomi Sunrider after a friend, then added a sci-fi twist. Johnston pulled back Nomi's brown hair halfway on her head to reveal a mark on her forehead. She also gave Nomi's husband, Andur, hair longer and stringier than Nomi. "I imagined her family very much like how present-day festival-goers/burners tend to look, like Earth warriors."

Depicting starships, however, proved daunting for Johnston. "I had never drawn a spacecraft in my life, let alone design them," she says. "They had someone else redo them in the reprint. This was also before the Internet and the wealth of easily accessible reference."

Her issue of *Tales of the Jedi* became Johnston's first published work. Twenty years later, Johnston sees it as one of the defining moments of her career, when she took her leap into the larger, professional world. "I haven't looked at my pages in years—not sure about specific details, but I would certainly approach it completely differently. I was still figuring out my process with storytelling, really. Definitely more research and a light table! I'd probably redo it completely, actually. I'd keep the same feel for the characters though—Protectors of the Earth."

Veitch has high praise for Johnston's art. "She was the first woman *Star Wars* artist [in the Dark Horse era]. She applied her sensibilities superbly to the character of Nomi Sunrider, a heroic woman Jedi of those ancient times."





Opposite page, from top left: Artist Janine Johnston; Johnston's various sketched poses of Nomi Sunrider; David Roach's pre-colored pages for *Tales* issue #4. Left: David Roach hard at work.

David Roach

Welsh artist David Roach found his way into *Star Wars* through another film universe, *Aliens*. Dark Horse Comics's founder Mike Richardson met Roach at a London convention when Roach was penciling for the acclaimed British comics magazine *2000 A.D.* Roach had drawn for some of the luminaries in the field, including writers Alan Moore and Neil Gaiman, so Richardson hired him to pencil the three-part *Aliens: Horror Show*. "I did a terrible job really," Roach admits. "But incredibly they asked me back to do *Star Wars*. This was just after *Dark Empire* had come out and they realized they had a hit on their hands."

Veitch loved Roach's realistic style and the two immediately clicked. "I was a fan of Tom's writing anyway from his underground days, so I was really excited about working with him," Roach says. "We chatted on the phone and even met up in London. *Tales* was full script so I didn't have any great input to the story, but really, I can't speak highly enough of Tom. It was a fun job all round."

As Roach remembers it, the Nomi Sunrider story was meant to appear first in *Tales*. "I was very slow so it got bumped back. I could be mistaken about that, mind you. I certainly spent ages on some of the early pages and the second issue was done much faster in order to meet the deadline. I think I only ever laid out and finished a few pages at a time, just inching along."

Since all the artists were working at once, Roach remained mostly in the dark as to what they were doing visually. "I wasn't influenced by them in any way. I pretty much drew things in my own style, though I was

very much aware of Al Williamson's work on the adaptations and newspaper strip. He was probably my biggest influence, along with the Italian artist Massimo Bellardinelli, who did great space scenes."

The panels featuring the giant hornet-inspired vessel with Bogga the Hutt became Roach's favorites to pencil. "My biggest fun was drawing this vast organic spacecraft. We were told if any of our designs got picked up for a film, we'd get paid extra, but I'm still waiting! I mostly drew what I thought would look good and crossed my fingers, hoping they'd like it."

Lucasfilm did like Roach's pages, though the [Dark Horse] editors modified the art to maintain continuity. Nomi's hair was shortened to match Johnston's portrayal of her, and figures were covered up in the background. Roach preferred his original compositions, though understood the changes that came with working on a shared, licensed property.

Reflecting on his work, Roach is tough on himself. "From where I am now artistically, I would love to go back and change so much! I can see so many mistakes, but you live and learn I guess. I think I was hoping to get more characters from the film in there as well. But overall it was a very positive experience."

Positive, it was. Roach's two issues for *Tales of the Jedi* sold around 250,000 copies combined, becoming the biggest selling comic of his career.

ROACH'S TWO ISSUES FOR TALES OF THE JEDI SOLD AROUND 250,000 COPIES COMBINED.



Tony Akins

Artist Tony Akins had comics in his blood. His father Douglas was a trailblazer in the field for African-American cartoonists, drawing adventure and World War II strips for the *Chicago Defender* newspaper in the 1940s. Although he possessed his father's artistic talents, Tony dreamed of piloting the U.S. Air Force's F-15s when he was a kid. At his mother's suggestion, Akins submitted his portfolio to the School of Art Institute of Chicago and was promptly accepted. Since much of the school's instruction was theoretical rather than practical, Akins dropped out after a year to follow his other dream and joined the Air Force.

After his stint in the Air Force, Akins returned to the art world, working in advertising for a Chicago studio. Akins had read Warren comics as a kid, but now his fellow artists hooked him on black-and-white alternative comics that were popular in the mid-1980s, such as *Love and Rockets* and *Concrete*. His friend Paul Mounts took a position at NOW Comics and offered Akins a job pencilling. *Rust*, scripted by Fred Schiller, became Akins's first published work. Akins went on to draw for NOW's series based on filmmaker James Cameron's *The Terminator*, then moved onto another film property influenced by James Cameron, pencilling *Aliens: Colonial Marines* for Dark Horse Comics.

Like Roach, the *Aliens* universe provided Akins with a gateway into *Star*



Wars. Dark Horse editor Randy Stradley asked if Akins would be interested in pencilling a *Tales of the Jedi* two-parter. These two issues would be numbered separately from the first five issues and released as a stand-alone titled *The Freedom Nadd Uprising*.

Accepting the assignment was a no-brainer for Akins. *Star Wars* had made a huge impression on the young Akins when he first saw the film one Chicago afternoon in June 1977. "We were late and my sister and my best friend had to stop at concessions for popcorn.

I said 'screw that' and took a peek into the theater doors," Akins remembers. "I looked in to see Luke igniting his father's lightsaber for the very first time in old Ben's house. It impacted on me like that meteor impacted on the Yucatan Peninsula—all life changed after that. My sketchbooks up until then had been filled with planes and Civil War battles and maps. Now it was nothing but spaceships, blasters, and robots."

Though the look of the technology and characters had been established in the preceding issues, Akins lent a Coptic and Roman feel to the tombs on Onderon. He enjoyed designing the Sith artifacts on display in the Galactic Museum on Coruscant and the "proto-Vader" Sith Guardian, Warb Null. "The big battle, where the Jedi break the siege, is a

high point for me," he says, as are "the trundling, heavily manned siege engines and Nomi Sunrider's single-handed fighting on the battlements against a squad of conventional armed pikemen."

His favorite contribution to *Star Wars* was inventing a new use for a lightsaber: having it bore through a heavy metal door. "I like to think the prequel filmmakers first saw this in my scene that involved a Jedi pinning a group of bad, bad men against a wall using a heavy panel and then eviscerating them by drawing his lightsaber through and across the door," Akins says.

[AKINS'] FAVORITE CONTRIBUTION
TO *STAR WARS* WAS INVENTING A NEW
USE FOR A LIGHTSABER!



Opposite page: Sahal & Aleema Keto begin to uncover the mysteries of Sith magic; Tony Akims has worn many artistic hats over the years.

Left: Nomi Sunrider and her husband share a moment of happiness in the Stenness hyperspace terminal (Pencils by Janine Johnston); Boggo the Hutt spots an intruder in Dave Dorman's cover painting of *Tales of the Jedi* #4.



Never-ending Tales

Opening the door for other artists to flex their *Star Wars* muscles opened up Veitch's writing, in turn, challenging him to keep *Tales of the Jedi* fresh. "The thing about writing for talented artists is that you need to create a context in which they can cut loose and do their thing," he says. "If they are especially adept in doing technology, for instance, you direct the story in that direction, with lots of fantastic ships and weaponry. If characters are their forte, focus on the characters more."

These first seven issues were but the beginning of Veitch's plans for *Tales*. The vast story Veitch had created about the Old Republic Jedi also involved their legendary mortal enemies. The next series for *Tales* would be its most epic: *Dark Lords of the Sith*.

To be concluded...

MORE TO SAY

Follow Michael Kogge online at www.michaelkogge.com or twitter @michaelkogge.

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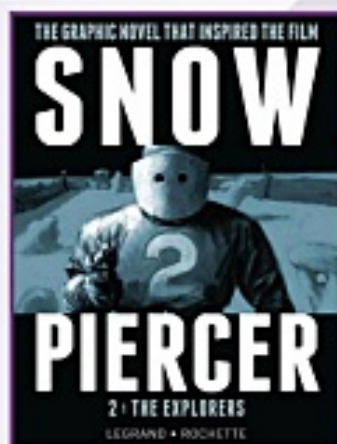
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**“THE EVIL HIDES
THE GOOD
BEHIND IT. THERE
IS SUCH A STORY
TO THIS IMAGE.”**



started talking to Disney and Lucasfilm in November 2013 about collaborating and incorporating *Star Wars* imagery into the collection.

“We really wanted to do this *Star Wars* collaboration in the strongest, most iconic way. As a massive *Star Wars* fan, I felt the Darth Vader mask is the iconic image of the films. It has a dark and timeless edge to it. The evil hides the good behind it. There is such a story to this image,” Thornton explains.

For about a month, they worked to incorporate Vader into their ethnic prints, resulting in the abstract designs that walked the London runway.

“For us, it was about the struggle between power and good in all of us. We wanted to incorporate the mask into our prints so that it had a desirability to our customer as well as retaining that graphic image from the original film,” says Thornton.

Rodarte’s designers are also fans of the franchise, revealing in a *StarWars.com* blog post that the films have become a part of who they are.

Star Wears

Perhaps it should be no surprise that the generation that grew up with *Star Wars* and entered the fashion world is now letting it inspire their work. The designs are certainly a welcome change after years of *Star Wars* fashion being relegated to mostly one style. It’s excited those who have been fighting for more recognition of *Star Wars* fashion, including actress and



entrepreneur Ashley Eckstein, who voiced Ahsoka Tano on *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* and founded geek girl clothing retailer Her Universe.

Eckstein was surprised to see two *Star Wars* appearances in February, especially since she had already planned to bring it to Los Angeles Fashion Week in March. There, Eckstein debuted a Darth Vader-inspired dress and announced that Her Universe would be partnering with San Diego Comic-Con to bring the first-ever geek couture fashion show to the convention. Even with Preen and Rodarte making their appearances first, Eckstein was thrilled to see so much *Star Wars*.

"I was really excited because we've spent time trying to convince people for the past four years that *Star Wars* is fashionable, that *Star Wars* can be in style and in fashion.

STAR WARS CAN BE IN STYLE AND IN FASHION.

So to see it on such a prominent runway and by designers like Rodarte was so exciting," she says.

Eckstein has been instrumental in championing *Star Wars* in fashion. Created in 2009, Her Universe has shown that *Star Wars* can inspire everything from leggings to necklaces and has filled a gap for female fans who have always faced fewer *Star Wars*-themed clothing options than men.

Jedi-to-Wear

Australian-based retailer Black Milk Clothing has also broken barriers for how *Star Wars* can be fashionable. They made waves two years ago when they collaborated with Lucasfilm on a collection that included an R2-D2 swimsuit.

Founder James Lillis is a huge *Star Wars* fan, as are many of his employees. Cameron Parker, Black Milk's head of marketing, admits it's not just fans asking for these designs that prompt them to make them. The employees are just as passionate, and proud of it.

"If you look at some traditional merchandise for pop culture it's normally T-shirts, but nothing much else... that's what we thought was such a cool idea. Where can we apply this to a different medium, which hasn't been done



Left: Her Universe's modernist Ashley Eckstein models Vader-inspired wear.

Right: Black Milk's designer swimwear showcases a sense of playful fun with some of the saga's greatest icons.



INSPIRATION

To accompany the previous *Star Wars* Costumes book (*The Prequel Trilogy*), the forthcoming *Star Wars Costumes: The Original Trilogy* book (available in the fall, 2014) offers unique insight into the iconic outfits that are inspiring fashion houses even today.

With first-person insights from designers, craftspeople, and actors, it covers everything from Princess Leia's iconic bikini to the X-wing pilots' helmets and much more.



before? Instead of T-shirts, which can be very merch-looking, this looks cool. This is fashionable and makes you think, *I want to wear this*," Parker explains. For Parker, it's easy to see why *Star Wars* might inspire designers.

"What's not to love? It looks cool. Who doesn't want to walk around looking like a droid? It's so iconic—the colors!—and *Star Wars* has such a cool following," he says. There's much more in *Star Wars* inspiring designers of course. Thornton believes it's partly the nostalgia and partly the iconic imagery of "The historical Samurai warrior-inspired costumes, the high tech droids, [and] the soft delicate drapes of gowns fused with the graphic modular sets" that is influential.

"The original film has a timeless look to it. There is a combination of organic and historical with high tech sci-fi, this is

always modern and always the most inspiring combination to us," Thornton says. "The other reason [it's influential] is that the original film was, we believe, a pivotal moment in many of the world's most successful and creative people. Perhaps their first experience of something totally ground-breaking and new. An experience like that stays with you and helps form and mold you. It sets a certain level of taste that influences your life."

To Eckstein, the universe and characters lend themselves to design. "The movies were often successful with their merchandise because the characters have memorable pieces to their costumes, and you remember what's on that character's costume," she says. "*Star Wars* has done that so well, whether it's the bandolier on Chewbacca or the stripe

on Han Solo's pants. That's what inspired me. These elements."

With new films and shows on the horizon, there will only be more of these elements to inspire. If the positive response to increased *Star Wars* fashion is anything to go by, fans wouldn't turn down seeing more. The excitement over Preen's collection has thrilled Thornton, a fellow fan at heart. So would he want to do another collection inspired by *Star Wars*? "For sure! It's always an inspiration to me!" 🌟

MORE TO SAY

For more information visit:
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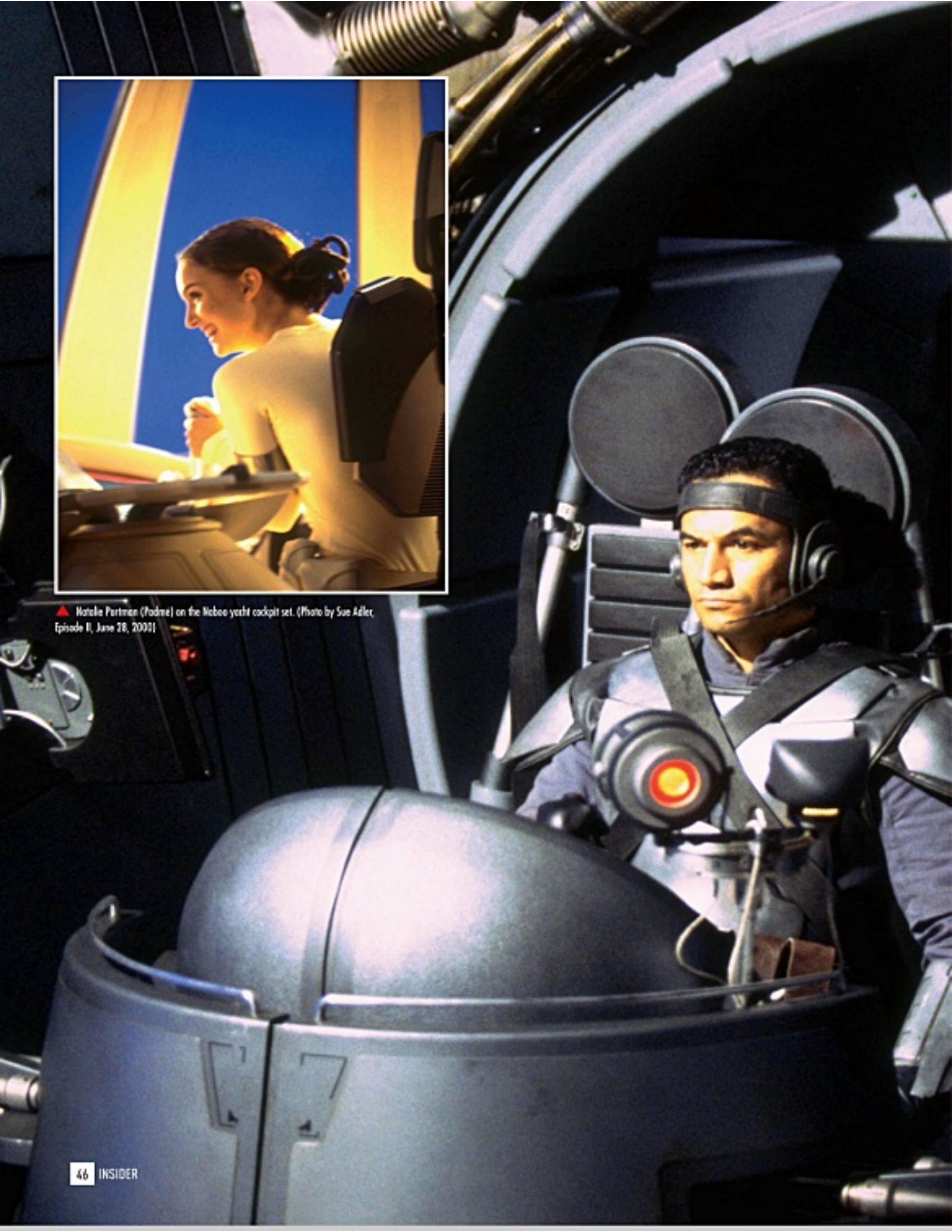
Part 4



▲ Joy Logo'ia (Captain Typho), Natalie Portman (Padmé Amidala) and Verónica Segura (Cordi) play out a dramatic scene on the a bluescreen set of Fox Studios, Australia. (Photo by Sue Adler, Episode II, June 30, 2001)



▲ Natalie Portman (Podme) on the Meebo yacht cockpit set. (Photo by Sue Adler, Episode II, June 28, 2002)

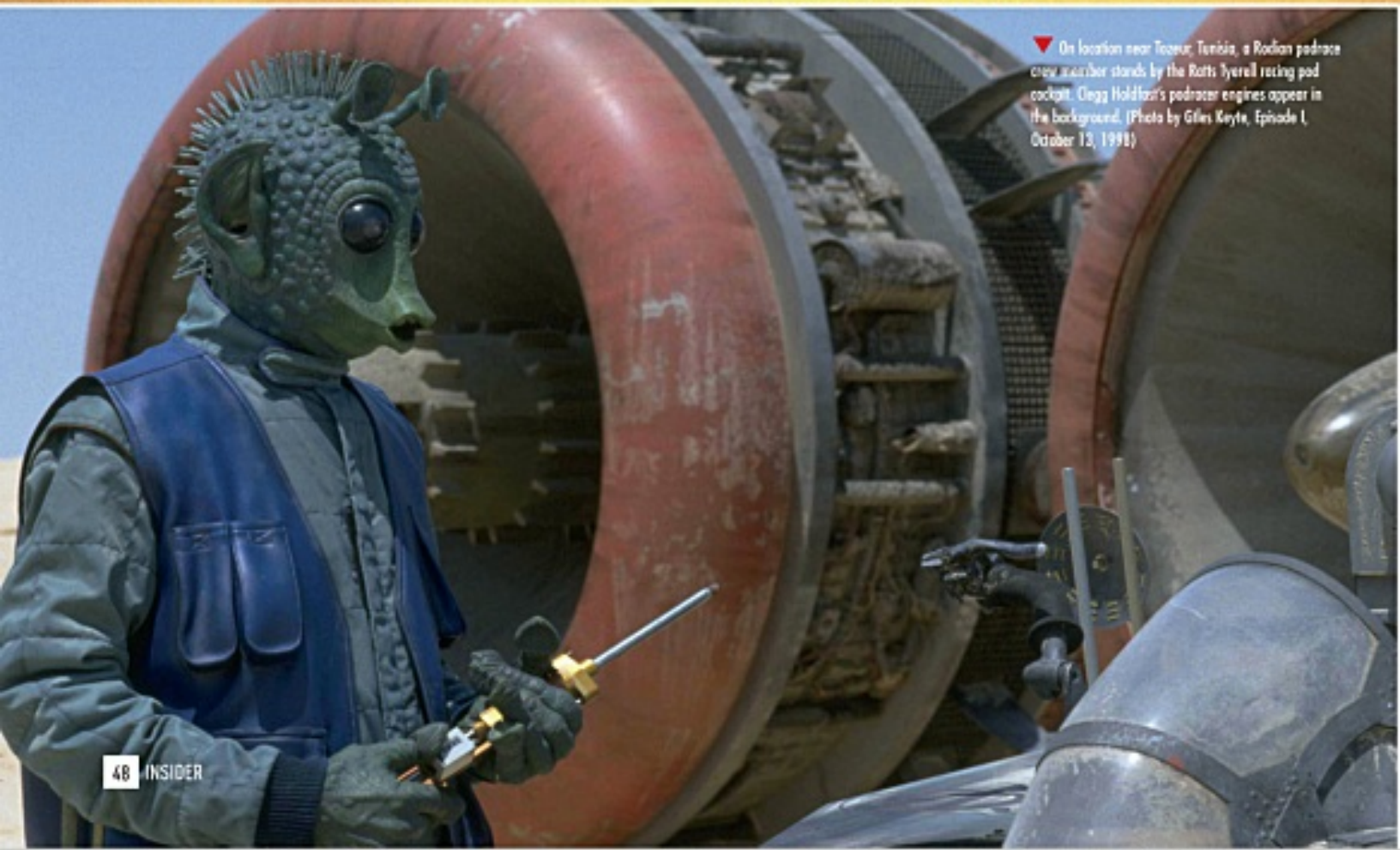




◀ Terrance Mannisen and Daniel Lagan (Jango and Boba Fett) aboard the *Slovo* / set (Photo by Sue Adler, Episode II, July 31, 2003)



▲ Hayden Christensen (Anakin Skywalker) in action during the shooting of the Geonosis arena battle. (Photo by Keith Worrall, Episode II, May 4, 2001)



▼ On location near Tozeur, Tunisia, a Rodian podrace crew member stands by the Rotti Tyrell racing pod cockpit. Clegg Haldor's podracer engines appear in the background. (Photo by Giles Keyte, Episode I, October 13, 1998)



◀ An unnamed extra in a Rodian mask waits for his order on the Dexter's Dinner set, Fox Studios, Australia (Photo by Lisa Tomasetti, Episode II, August 7, 2000)



▶ Nash Egerton (Obi-Wan Kenobi stunt double, and brother of Owen Lars actor, Joel) leaps into action on the Fox Studios set. (Photo by Giles Westley, Episode II, August 22, 2000)

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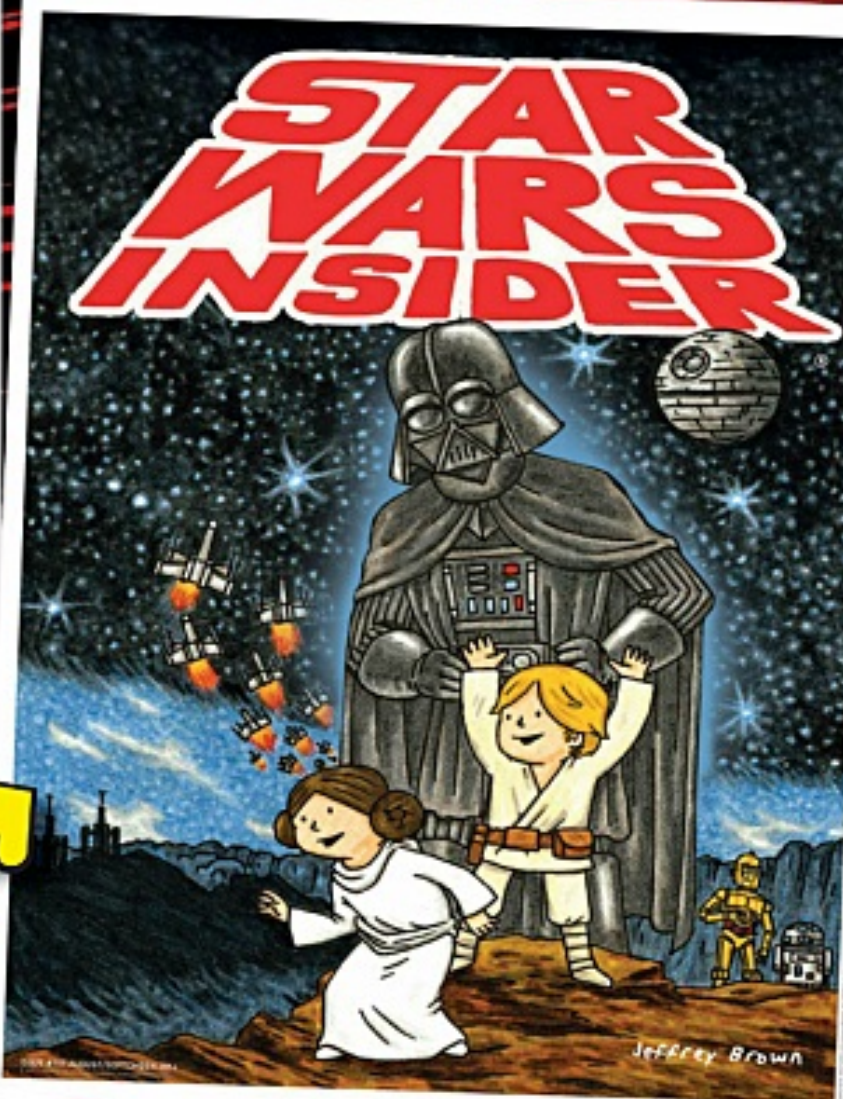
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EXCLUSIVE FICTION

ONE THOUSAND LEVELS DOWN

BY ALEXANDER FREED
WITH ART BY JOE CORRONEY AND BRIAN MILLER

Level 2142 was a bust. Anandra realized it as soon as she stepped up to the counter of "Hangra's Meat Shack," pressed her palms onto the greasy metal to quell the shaking in her arms, and asked the old man tending the grill about the "Centax 3 delivery." He looked at her with confused condescension, like she was lost and out of her depth—which, Anandra supposed, she probably was—and it made her want to drag him over the counter and swear in his face until he somehow made things right.

She didn't yell. She couldn't afford to make a scene. She forced herself to stay calm, to look pathetic and confused and earn the man's sympathy. By the time she returned to her brother—still in the alley where they'd slept the night before—she had her next lead.

Her next hope of escaping the stormtroopers.

The alley was formed by metal rain grates and Anandra settled beside Santiago against the wall, watching shadows cross his face as speeders flitted high above. She passed him the greasy packets of meat and cheese the old man had given her and waited for the questions to start.

"So are we leaving?" Santiago asked. Anandra balled her hands into fists and didn't look at him.

"We missed our chance."

"We shouldn't have rested," Santiago said.

At eight years old, he was barely half Anandra's age, but his bitter determination reminded her of her father.

"The transport left two days ago," she snarled. "Four hours didn't make a difference."

She took a long breath and reached for one of the wrapped packages as Santiago began to eat. She felt hollow and nauseated at the thought of food. "Besides," she said, "we don't have to leave Coruscant. The guy said he knew someone on 1997 who might give us shelter."

"What level are we on now?" Santiago asked.

Anandra didn't answer. It wouldn't comfort him, and she didn't want to argue. Yes, one hundred forty-five levels was a long way on foot; yes, they were both tired; and yes, they had to do it.

They ate in silence until Santiago spat out a chip of bone and said, "I wish we had starblossom."

He'd spoken almost to himself, but Anandra pressed her thumb into Santiago's shoulder and wrenched him to face her.

"Well, we don't," she said. "We can't have fruit whenever we want and there isn't any more starblossom. There isn't ever going to be more."

Santiago was trembling. Anandra felt a rush of guilt and pulled away as she snapped, "It's gone. Just like Alderaan. Get used to it."

The riots hadn't started as riots. They'd begun as vigils, a way for the people of Level 3204 to grieve for the missing and dead in the wake of the Disaster. Hundreds of locals packed together in the streets, bringing holographic snapshots,

handwritten letters, and children's toys to makeshift monuments in parks and community centers. As days passed, however, and official statements and pirate newsfeeds converged on a common truth, anguished wails became cries for justice and revolution.

The planet Alderaan was gone, destroyed by the Empire for crimes

no one understood. The Alderaanians—first- and second-generation immigrants who had shops and restaurants and houses on 3204, who celebrated Coronation Day and imported their favorite fruits from a planet they rarely visited—were alive and frightened and angry. The rest of Coruscant nervously stayed inside and watched the news because Alderaan wasn't, after all, *their* planet.

Anandra couldn't blame them. She'd never thought Alderaan was her planet, either, until the underworld police and the Imperial stormtroopers came.

AS DAYS PASSED AND
OFFICIAL STATEMENTS AND
PIRATE NEWSFEEDS CONVERGED
ON A COMMON TRUTH,
ANGUISHED WAILS BECAME CRIES
FOR JUSTICE AND REVOLUTION.

When the troops marched into the street and shot her uncle's neighbor Reffe, cutting short his tirade against Imperial corruption, Anandra's mother promised it was over, that no one was going to fight and that the stormtroopers wouldn't make trouble.

"You and Santiago will be safe," she said with a faded smile over breakfast, as she absently bent a spoon in her hands.

She'd already promised that Anandra's father would be fine. That he'd be home on Coruscant as soon as his trade mission was over. Even Santiago hadn't believed that.

"You, I can take," the Pau'an said. The leathery gray skin around his mouth tightened as he grimaced. "You and the boy? This is more difficult."

Level 1997 smelled like soot and human waste. Sparks from industrial compactors drifted lazily to the streets, and lurid signs in pastel pink and blue invited passers-by to sample local "entertainments." Anandra had been to 1997 once before, on a dare with a schoolmate; they'd taken a lift down, snapped their image with a holocam, then returned skyward. Her parents hadn't found out.

Now she was back, staring down a man with a face like a corpse in a cramped corner of a painfully bright cantina. Santiago stood behind her chair, a hand on her shoulder.

"I'm not leaving my brother behind," Anandra said.

"I sympathize." The Pau'an tipped his own chair back and grinned at his monstrous partner—a hulking black-skinned alien with a mouth wider than Anandra's shoulders and oily quagmires for eyes. Anandra didn't recognize the species.

"Family is family. But I need people to run goods, make deliveries. You can do that, and I can protect you."

Anandra suspected she knew what sort of "deliveries" needed to be made on Level 1997. She could adjust, though. She might have to.

The Pau'an kept talking. "Yet the boy is so little, and can give me nothing. You see my dilemma?"

"I could work for you longer," Anandra said.

The Pau'an sighed and glanced at his companion again.

"I am not sure this is enough. You are both a risk, running from the underworld police..." He paused. "What is your crime again?"

Anandra winced as she heard Santiago's soft, defiant voice. "We aren't criminals."

"Then you have nothing to fear, eh?" the Pau'an said, the stains on his jagged teeth etched by the intense light. He pointed a finger toward the entrance.

Two newcomers had entered the cantina, both in full body armor. They might have been droids, Anandra thought, if it weren't for their swagger. One wore the blue-gray of the underworld police, amber lights gleaming from the sockets of his helmet. The other wore the white of an Imperial stormtrooper, stark and blinding in the cantina's illumination.

The day after the stormtroopers shot Reffe, security forces began arresting anyone in the streets. Anandra's mother sat on the orange couch in their apartment and cried while Anandra kept Santiago away from the windows. By that time, there was no HoloNet service either—no way to spread news apart from neighbor to neighbor.

The day after that, stormtroopers began going door to door. Rebel spies, they said, had been recruiting locals, and anyone born on Alderaan needed to be taken in for questioning. Rumor was that second-generation immigrants were being given "the benefit of the doubt" and relocated to temporary housing for their own safety.

The young woman who lived next door—the droid mechanic with a chipped front tooth and blond hair who'd babysat Anandra years before—had repeated that particular rumor with a cynical grin.

"That's how I got my first airspeeder," the woman said. "When they relocated the Mon Calamari after the Old Market Sector riots. Dad found this B-14 some poor family left behind."

"I don't remember it," Anandra said. "I was really young."

She shifted her weight from one leg to the other, awkwardly wiped her palms on her hips. "You think they should've run?" she asked. "The Mon Cals, I mean."

"Sometimes you can't know," the woman said.

"You just have to wait and hope things get better." Then she hugged Anandra and slipped back inside her apartment, locking the door behind her.

The rest of that afternoon, Anandra and Santiago stayed close together. Anandra's mother shut herself in the bedroom, but Anandra couldn't hear crying anymore.

THE PAU'AN TIPPED HIS OWN CHAIR BACK AND GRINNED AT HIS MONSTROUS PARTNER.

Level 1996 was a maze of pipes and catwalks between the compactors above and a humming abyss below. The plating and sluices that canopied the level breathed heat onto Anandra and Santiago as they hurried away from the lift.

The stormtrooper had seen them. He wouldn't be far behind.

Anandra knew she'd made a bad choice. She could've lived with herself, carrying packets of death sticks or spice to the Upau'an's clientele. Santiago was smart and resilient and he could've learned to live with it. But she'd bitten her lip when the Upau'an had made his final offer, and instead of taking shelter with the gangs of Coruscant she'd pulled Santiago toward the cantina's back exit.

Now they were paying for her squeamishness. The catwalks turned and branched, but there were no walls aside from the curtains of pipework—nothing to hide them from a stormtrooper with heat displays and sensors and who knew what else. Her brilliant plan of "run to the next level and find shelter in the deepest, darkest hole around" was turning out to have flaws.

Anandra stopped on a long, narrow span between maintenance platforms. There was nothing on either side, nothing below except the weird lights and humming sounds of Level 1995.

"You need to run, okay?" Anandra said, turning Santiago to face her.

"What about you?" Santiago asked.

"Don't talk back," Anandra snapped.

She didn't expect her brother to obey, but he did. She looked away and breathed in relief as she heard his footsteps ring on metal into the distance.

Then she put a hand on each guardrail and waited.

When the stormtrooper came out of the lift, his white armor shone like a spotlight. He came without the underworld police officer; that was good. His blaster was still holstered; that was better.

He spotted Anandra in seconds. She stayed put as he wove among the catwalks and arrived on the nearest platform.

"Walk slowly in my direction, please. Hands on your head," the stormtrooper said. She couldn't read his tone under the electronic hiss of the helmet.

"I didn't do anything," Anandra called.

"Facial ID confirms you're Anandra Milon, age sixteen, 3204 resident scheduled for relocation. Pre-convicted of juvenile noncompliance. You'll receive a fair hearing taking into account age and psychological state."

"You going to stand there, or are you going to arrest me?" Anandra asked. To her surprise, she felt calm. Almost giddy.

The stormtrooper glanced behind him, then back to Anandra. "Come on, kid. You got a raw deal, but it's not the end of the world."

"It kind of was," Anandra laughed, and lowered her knees to the catwalk. The stormtrooper put a hand on his blaster and began to cautiously approach.

"I have to put you in stuncuffs," the stormtrooper said.

As he reached for his belt, Anandra sprang for the blaster in his holster.

She didn't try to retrieve the weapon. The trooper would have caught her, broken her wrists and pried the blaster back. She only needed to pull it out of its holster, maintain momentum and release. It went sailing, skidding across the catwalk and quivering at the metal's edge. For that moment, Anandra had the advantage.

Then the stormtrooper kned her in the chest. She fell back, barely tried to break her fall. He can't shoot me, she thought. If he killed her now, at least she'd cost him his dignity.

Two solid kicks to her midsection, and her whole body seemed to fold. When he hesitated, she was up again, jumping forward, wrapping her arms around his neck and jabbing her thumbs under the rim of his helmet. His fingers dug into her sides as she tried to crack the helmet's seal. She slammed her head against the



black eyeplate, saw red, hoped she'd bought herself a few moments.

Somehow, when her vision came back, she was on the ground and looking up at the stormtrooper's unhelmeted face—the face of a scarred, middle-aged man who vaguely reminded her of her uncle. Then the stormtrooper screamed as he rose into the air and plummeted over the railing.

Behind him stood the Pau'an's monstrous partner, nearly too big to fit on the catwalk, flicking stubby fingers as if the stormtrooper had left a residue.

"Level 1782," the creature said, its voice higher-pitched and breathier than Anandra had expected. "You may find shelter there." It stared for another moment before adding, "I had no part in this."

Anandra realized she had the stormtrooper's helmet in her hands. The white surface was stained with her blood. "Why are you doing this?" she asked.

Enormous muscles rolled under skin as the creature seemed to shrug. "You are of Alderaan, yes?" it asked.

"Yes," Anandra said.

"I know what your people suffer," the creature said, and turned away.

When the stormtroopers came to the door of Anandra's apartment, Anandra and Santiago were huddled in the empty fluid bucket of a cleaning droid floating outside their bedroom window. The droid normally washed the building once a week. It had already come two days before, and Anandra guessed she had her neighbor to thank for its change in schedule.

Anandra heard her mother open the door. She heard the static of a stormtrooper's voice. Then she felt the cleaning unit carry them away, and she put an arm around Santiago and tried to focus on her mother's instructions.

They were to go to Level 3108 and find an old friend of the family. Their mother would meet them, and they'd all leave Coruscant together.

Level 3108, of course, had been the first of many disappointments. The "family friend" had offered nothing but excuses and apologies, and finally a promise that a smuggler on 2142 would get them offworld. Santiago hadn't wanted to leave without their mother; Anandra and a close call with the underworld police convinced him otherwise.

They'd been running ever since.

Level 1782 was an endless junkyard walled by scrap metal and overlooked by swaying towers of debris. It was built of crashed airspeeders, decommissioned hovertrains, and broken billboards cast down from their homes in the sky; when a vehicle fell from the upper levels, 1782 was its final destination.

Anandra and Santiago walked together, Santiago clutching Anandra's right wrist. In her left hand she held the dead stormtrooper's blaster. She hadn't put it down since she'd retrieved it from the catwalk.

They'd been exploring the junkyard for nearly an hour, alone except the oversized rats, when a humanoid figure slunk out from behind a rusting tram car. He wore a workman's vest two sizes too large, and his bulging eyes were set at opposite sides

of his teardrop head. Anandra knew his species—Mon Calamari—though she hadn't seen his kind for years.

He carried a steel hydrosponder, long and heavy, in one webbed hand. He was probably salvaging junk, Anandra thought, but she remembered the stormtrooper's boot in her chest and she wondered how fast and hard the Mon Calamari could swing.

Anandra pointed her blaster in his direction. "Don't come closer."

The Mon Calamari stopped. Santiago squeezed her wrist and said something, but Anandra wasn't listening. The blaster seemed to twitch in her fingers.

"We won't hurt you," Anandra said. "Just give us some food and credits and we'll head to the next level."

The Mon Calamari bobbed his head but otherwise didn't move.

"You said someone would be here to help us," Santiago whispered. Anandra ignored her brother. She was in control for once, and she didn't need another disappointment.

"Can you understand me?" Anandra asked, harsher. Her palms were sweating, and she tried to grip the blaster tighter without pulling the trigger.

The Mon Calamari spoke in a guttural voice in a foreign tongue. When Anandra gestured with her blaster, he tried again: "Yes," he said, spitting and fumbling with the word.

"Don't hurt him," Santiago urged.

The Mon Calamari raised his free hand—the one with the hydrosponder stayed at his side—and pointed at Santiago.

"Alderaan?" he asked.

Out of the corner of her eye, Anandra saw Santiago nod.

"Follow," the Mon Calamari said, and began to creep backward.

Anandra looked from the barrel of her blaster to the face of the Mon Calamari. She thought of all the ways this encounter could go wrong: he could be a slaver working with the Pau'an, or planning to sell her to the stormtroopers, or he could beat her and her brother to death for no reason at all.



Santiago was watching her. Slowly, she let her breath out and lowered her blaster.

They followed a twisting path through the wrecks and descended a hill of upholstered train seats and window frames toward a great steel cavern. As they came closer, Anandra realized the cavern was the hull of a starship; it must have crashed planetside during some long-forgotten conflict and since been gutted. What remained was an open space glowing with blue and yellow light.

The hull was filled with makeshift camps, tiny stalls, tents strung with lanterns and batteries, portable stovetops sizzling with grease, buckets full of rainwater, and hundreds of life forms from a dozen species. Mon Calamari roasted mynocks on spits while tattooed near-human children tossed a ball nearby. Anandra spotted a hulking creature she thought, for an instant, was the Pau'an's partner—but its coloring was off.

"Stop," Anandra said, sharper than she expected. She tugged at Santiago, drawing him close. "What is all this?" "Home," the Mon Calamari said. "Stay. You are expected." Anandra shook her head in confusion.

Men and women began to emerge from the hull, observing with cautious interest. The Mon Calamari didn't look away from Anandra.

"Mon Calamari," he said, tapping his chest. "Empire takes." Then he gestured behind him.

"Herglic, Empire takes." Another of the hulking creatures was trundling into view.

As the crowd grew, the Mon Calamari pointed to the strangers one by one, naming species and planets Anandra barely knew—names she'd only heard mentioned in muted asides. Then finally, he pointed to her.

"Alderaanian," he said. "Empire takes. But here, we all share."

And whether because of the Mon Calamari's words, or the sad, strained gazes of the people behind him, or the sheer extent of her exhaustion, Anandra dropped her gun and began to weep.

Santiago squeezed her arm again, and Anandra cried like her mother had cried during the riots; she cried without dignity or reason, cried until her nose streamed and strangers guided her into the warmth and safety of the hull. Santiago clung to her, and when she could speak and reason and act again, she helped her hosts prepare a meal, found a place for her brother to rest and eat.

She knew she would have questions tomorrow. She would need to learn how these people lived, what they hoped for. She would need to share news from the upper levels. She would need to decide whether to give up her blaster or use it against the Empire.

But that night, she could put those concerns aside. That night, she'd found home and family in the depths of Coruscant. 🍷

MORE TO SAY

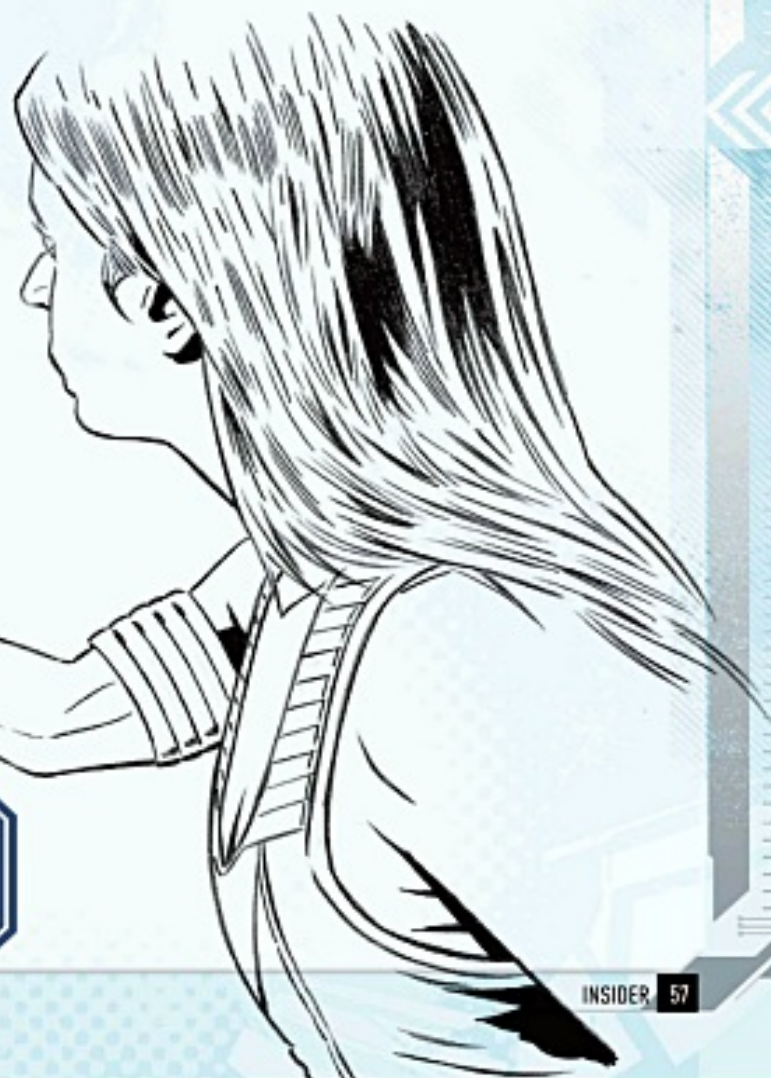
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See more of Joe Corroney's art at www.joecorroney.com

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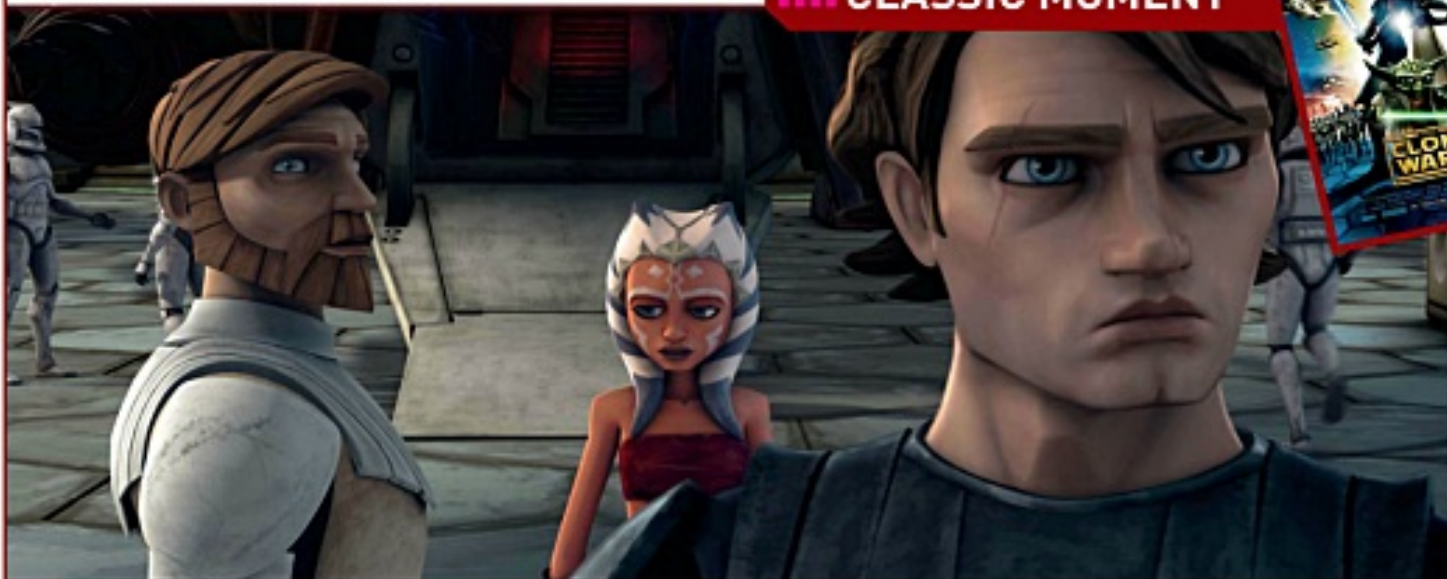
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TITAN
COMICS



"I'M YOUR NEW PADAWAN."

WORDS: NEIL EDWARDS

On the crystalline planet of Christophsis, Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker lead the battle against the Confederacy of Independent Systems' battle droids. Fighting the Confederacy street to street, the Jedi expect reinforcements from the Republic, but when a shuttle lands, it contains not the reinforcements, but instead a seemingly meek young Togruta female named Ahsoka Tano, who has a big surprise in store for Anakin...

WHY IT'S A CLASSIC

Ahsoka's entrance is possibly one of *Star Wars*' biggest surprises—after all, before that point we'd had no inkling that Anakin had ever even had a Padawan. At first, it was assumed that Ahsoka is to be Obi-Wan's new Padawan, taking the place of the now grown Anakin. However, when Anakin is revealed as her new Master, things really changed for the headstrong young Jedi. Now he would have to grow up and learn how to take charge of an impetuous youngster, just as Obi-Wan had to for him. Although characters like Princess Leia and Padmé Amidala are brave, strong and resourceful, Ahsoka soon proved to be a new kind of character in the *Star Wars* universe—a headstrong, tomboyish girl with a sarcastic sense of humor and an aggressive side. They don't call her 'Snips' for nothing! Ahsoka provided a much-needed role model for young girls who were watching, and the feisty

Togruta quickly became a fan favorite. And it all started when she stepped off of that shuttle.

WHAT THEY SAID

"When we were recording the sessions for each episode, Dave gave me notes and thoughts on how he wanted me to read a certain line with a certain level of spunk to try and make it reminiscent of what Carrie Fisher did. We wanted to bring some of the spirit of Princess Leia into Ahsoka. We liked how funny and independent she was."

—Ashley Eckstein (Ahsoka Tano), *Star Wars Insider Special Edition* 2014

"I really love the witty banter. It's really fun to get in there and bounce that sarcasm back and forth with Ashley and James (Arnold Taylor). It's all about getting that timing and that fun tone—that's what I like the best."

—Matt Lanter (Anakin Skywalker), *Star Wars Insider Special Edition* 2014

ESSENTIAL TRIVIA

According to the book *The Art of Star Wars: The Clone Wars*, Ahsoka was originally to be named Ashla. 🗡️

NEXT ISSUE:
TRUST HIM!
TRUST HIM!



#9

ON SALE
NOW!

THE WALKING DEAD

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE

A PRIME CUT OF ZOMBIE GOODNESS!



Interviews with Michael Cudlitz, Robert Kirkman and Norman Reedus, the actor who portrays the quintessential 'bad boy come good': Daryl Dixon!

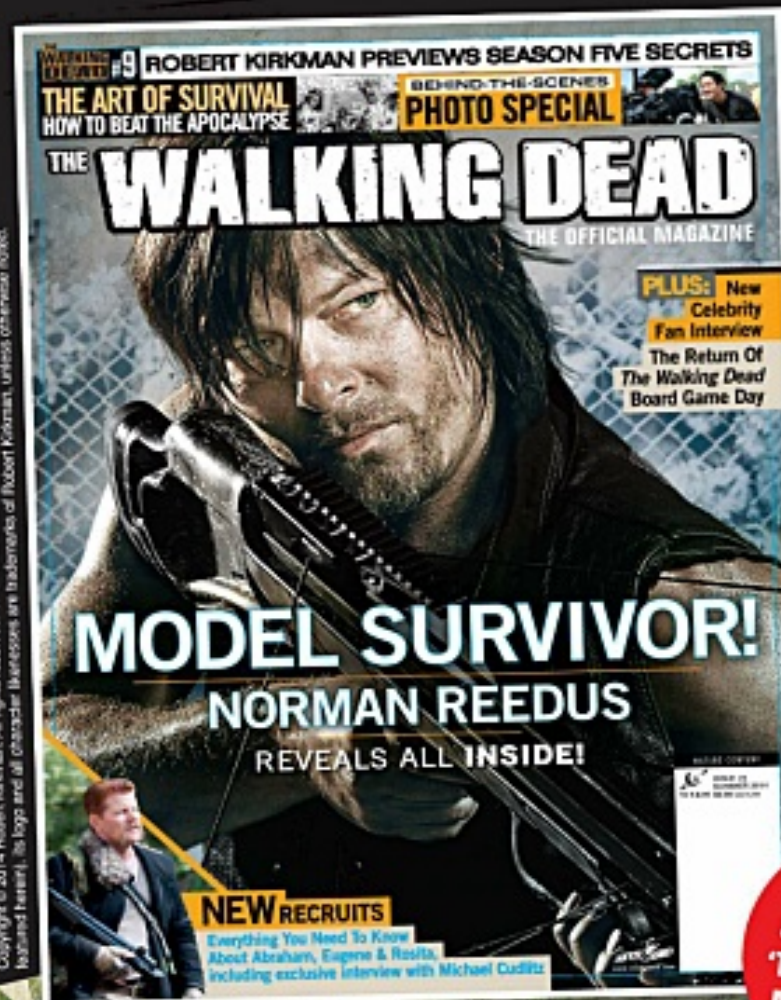


Survival of the fittest! Find out what it takes to survive in a zombie apocalypse as we take a look at the toughest survivors from the comic book series!



Behind-the-scenes of season four. Look back over the last season with our favorite photos of the cast and crew!

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BLASTER

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By the fans, for the fans!

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THE LATEST *STAR WARS*
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YOUR COLLECTION!





PUBLISHING //

THE LATEST AND GREATEST *STAR WARS* TALES HEADING YOUR WAY! WORDS: DAN WALLACE

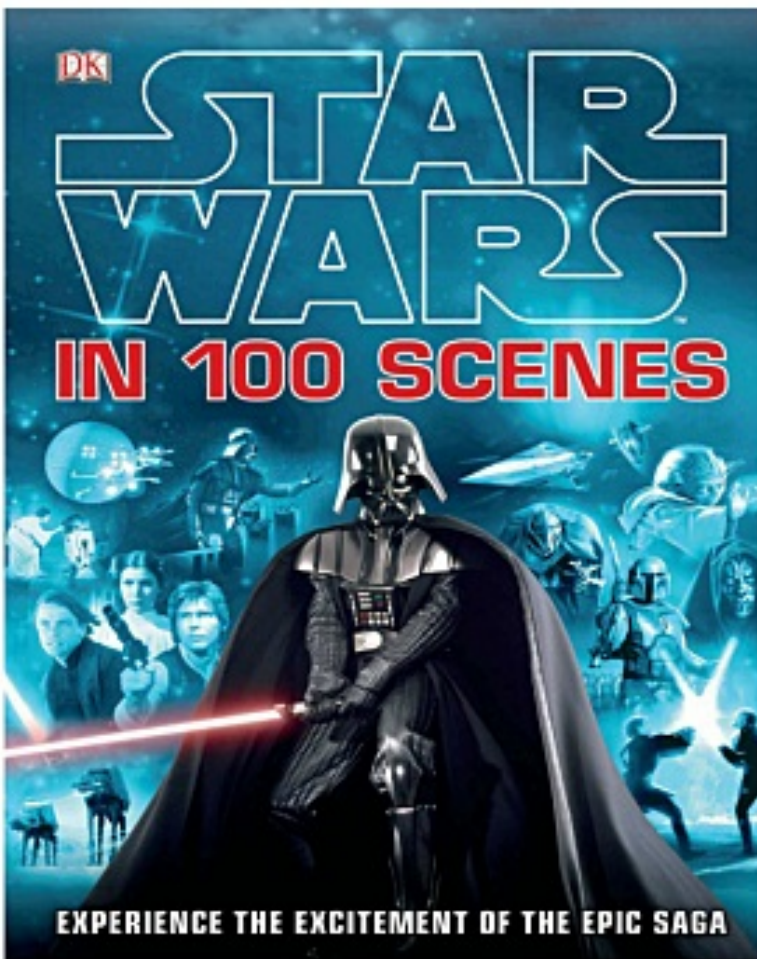
THINK YOU'VE SCENE IT? THINK AGAIN!

Star Wars in 100 Scenes Provides a Fresh Look at the Saga

The stirring, fast-paced, and unforgettable moments from the six-part *Star Wars* saga are burned into the brains of most fans, and now DK Publishing is offering a way to study those scenes in detail. *Star Wars in 100 Scenes*, available August 18, offers an iconic image on every spread, each hand-picked and presented in chronological movie order. "There's a wealth of detail in each spread," says writer Jason Fry, who mapped out the 100 scenes he most wanted to cover with input from DK's designers and Lucasfilm. "One of the great things about a DK book is that they have a clean design that can pack a lot of information in without intimidating the reader. We used the same basic design we'd created for *Star Wars The Clone Wars Episode Guide*, which was a good way to tell the story—a main image and three supporting images."

Fans will get a thrill merely from paging through the book, but a closer read will show how each spread is anchored with data points identifying key characters, starships, and droids. Real-world observations are also included in the visually rich, factually dense 208-page hardcover.

"I didn't have to let go of any favorite scenes," says Fry, who is proud of the 100 moments that made the cut. "But it did prove difficult to combine scenes into a single spread when subplots were intertwined. Anakin and Padmé's romance in *Attack of the Clones*? That was a challenge, as was re-creating the 'fugue' of thematic scenes that ends *Revenge of the Sith*. But we found a way!"



JEDI SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION

Jeffrey Brown Continues His Popular Series with *Jedi Academy: Return of the Padawan*

Writer/artist Jeffrey Brown burst onto the *Star Wars* scene in 2012 with the hilarious picture book *Darth Vader and Son*. Brown soon launched the bestselling *Jedi Academy* series for middle-graders, and on July 29 he

welcomes readers back to a middle school in a galaxy far, far away in *Jedi Academy: Return of the Padawan*.

Hopeful academy student Roan Novachez might have survived his first year, but that isn't going to make his second year any easier. Forced to face

the fact that he's not as amazing a star pilot as he'd hoped, Roan falls in with a clique of school bullies while dealing with alien poetry tests, menacing robots, lightsaber duels, and food fights. But the worst thing of all? A girl who's mad at him!

ORIGAMI YODA TAKES A BOW

The Bestselling Young Adult Series
Finishes Strong with *Emperor Pickletine Rides the Bus*

When Tom Angleberger's *The Strange Case of Origami Yoda* debuted in 2010, readers met sixth-grade protagonist Dwight and his folded-paper finger puppet, Origami Yoda himself. Angleberger's funny take on middle-grade years filtered through a *Star Wars* lens struck a chord with readers, who snapped up the novel and its four sequels. This summer sees the release of the sixth and final installment in the *Origami Yoda* series: *Emperor Pickletine Rides the Bus*.

Because Angleberger grew with twin loves for origami and the *Star Wars* movies, he has expertly guided readers through the weird world of Dwight and his friends at McQuarrie Middle School. The gang fought to save their field trip in the previous book *Princess Labelmaker to the Rescue*, and now they're ready for a day of fun and adventure in Washington, DC. But the trouble begins even before the buses even leave the school, when Principal Rabbski decrees the field trip an "origami-free zone."

Dwight secretly folds a Yoda from a Fruit Roll-Up, but will Fruitigami Yoda be a match for Harvey's sour, hate-filled pickle of darkness? Get the scoop with *Emperor Pickletine Rides the Bus*, coming in August.



Brown packs in humor on every page, relating Roan's struggles through comics, journal entries, letters, sketches, and e-mails. *Jedi Academy: Return of the Padawan* combines all the highlights and frustrations of middle school with the irresistible space-fantasy fun of *Star Wars*!

From the author of the New York Times bestselling *Star Wars* series



YOU'RE IN CONTROL

Star Wars Scene Maker Makes You
a Mobile Director

Star Wars Scene Maker, a new mobile app from Disney Publishing Worldwide, is the first in a new line of creativity apps intended to give fans the tools to create, customize, and share their own iconic *Star Wars* scenes.

The filmmaking tools and mechanics offered by *Star Wars Scene Maker* include 3D models of characters, vehicles, and environments, allowing user-generated storytelling with limitless opportunities.

Available beginning June 19, the basic app is free for iPhones, iPads, and iPod Touches running iOS 6.0 or later. A Battle of Endor scene from *Return of the Jedi* comes with the app, and additional launch content—Cloud City Duel and Death Star Trench Run—is available in the form of paid downloads. Other features of *Star Wars Scene Maker* include:

- **Filmmaking Interface:** Using simple, intuitive controls, users can zoom in, pull back, and explore the 3D environment. Users can define paths and actions for characters and vehicles using waypoints.
- **Multiple Cameras:** Three cameras can be positioned within the environment, with options to rotate and adjust their vertical height. Film modes include Fixed Camera, Fixed Tracking Camera, and Chase Camera.
- **Official Music and Dialogue:** Choose from nine John Williams *Star Wars* film compositions, as well as character dialogue including iconic lines from the trilogy's most prominent characters and villains.
- **Record Your Own Audio:** Make your own audio track, with voice filter options including Darth Vader, a stormtrooper, or a Rebel Alliance intercom.
- **Personal Touch:** Add your own title crawl and end credits, or customize vehicles like the AT-ST with a variety of weapons.
- **Share Your Masterpieces:** Save your scene, and share it with other *Star Wars* fans on Facebook and YouTube!



COMICS //

THE VERY BEST *STAR WARS* COMIC BOOKS HEADED YOUR WAY! WORDS: DAN WALLACE

TAKING THEIR FINAL BOWS

Dark Horse Comics Completes Its Monthly *Star Wars* Issues in August

After 23 years as the exclusive licensed publisher of *Star Wars* comics, Dark Horse is wrapping up its historic run this August with the final issues of *Star Wars*, *Star Wars: Legacy*, and the limited series *Darth Maul: Son of Dathomir*. Dark Horse began publishing *Star Wars* comics in 1989 with the first issue of the Tom Veitch/Cam Kennedy classic *Dark Empire*. Since then, hundreds of stories spanning thousands of years of fictional history have thrilled fans and deepened the saga.

And although *Star Wars* comic books aren't going away—Marvel is launching its own suite of titles shortly—fans can look back on the Dark Horse era with fondness.

"Our goal was to create sequels and prequels to the films we loved, paying careful attention to quality and detail, essentially treating those films as though they were our own," said Dark Horse publisher Mike Richardson in a January statement. "*Star Wars* has been the crown jewel of this approach."

Most of Dark Horse's back catalog is available in collected editions, but these are the monthly issues that will cap the company's remarkable run:

Star Wars #20: Princess Leia risks it all for a friend she hasn't seen since childhood, while Han, Luke, and Chewbacca risk it all for Leia! On sale August 13, this issue features a story by Brian Wood and artwork by Carlos D'Anda, as well as a cover by Hugh Fleming.

Star Wars: Legacy #18: Ania Solo and her friends find themselves fighting alongside Imperial Knights and the Empress herself against a legion of Sith! While the others fight for control of the galaxy, Ania fights to save her friend—Imperial Knight Jao Assam—from the dark side. Available



August 27, the issue features a story by Corinna Bechko and Gabriel Hardman with art by Hardman and Brian Albert Thies. Agustin Alessio contributes the cover.

Star Wars: Darth Maul—Son of Dathomir #4: The final issue of the four-part series concludes Dark Horse's adaptation of an unproduced storyarc from the animated

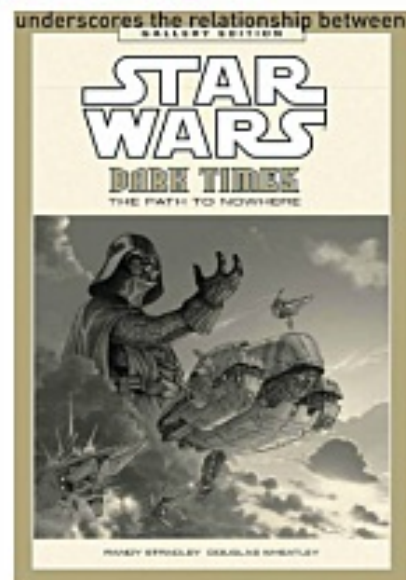
series *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*. Writer Jeremy Barlow and artist Juan Frigeri recount Count Dooku's possession by the spirit of Mother Talzin, and a massive attack by the Separatists. As Darth Sidious joins the fight, Darth Maul's Shadow Collective faces its shattering end. Featuring a cover by Chris Scalf (shown above) this issue is available on August 20.

A VISUAL FEAST

A Classic Series Gets Top-Quality Treatment with the *Star Wars: Dark Times* Gallery Edition

The new Gallery Edition format from Dark Horse is the perfect medium for reading *Dark Times*—the sometimes bleak and always visually stunning *Star Wars* series launched in 2006. A new volume collects issues #1-5 of the series as a 240-page hardcover, reprinting Douglas Wheatley's original pencil artwork at full size.

This high-quality reproduction allows fans to take in all the details that Wheatley packed into each page as he illustrated the saga of hunted Jedi Dass Jennir and his alien companion Bomo Greenbark, in an adventure set after the grim conclusion of *Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith*. The inclusion of writer Randy Stradley's complete script pages for each issue



underscores the relationship between words and images, and showcases the moments where Wheatley chose to revise his art to better suit the story.

The *Dark Times* Gallery Edition is available for direct orders November 5, and will appear in bookstores starting on November 18.



ANIA SOLO ON THE RUN

Han and Leia's Descendant Carves Out Her Own Legend in a New *Star Wars: Legacy* Collection

Star Wars: *Legacy* might be ending its run in August with issue #18, but a new trade paperback lets fans relive Ania Solo's most dangerous adventure yet. *Star Wars: Legacy* volume 3—*Wanted: Ania Solo* collects issues #11–#15 of the "future of Star Wars" series, taking place more than 130 years after the movies.

Ania Solo, several generations descended from Han Solo and Princess Leia, finds herself in hot water after she's charged with the murder of an Imperial Knight. Her face now plastered on Wanted posters and her companions in danger, Ania goes on the run. Mon Calamari engineer Sauk and Imperial Knight Jao Assam aren't about to give her up even if the accusations raise suspicions, but before long their ship is compromised and the group is split apart. With multiple bounty hunters gunning for her head, Ania will need plenty of the Solo luck if she wants to get out alive.

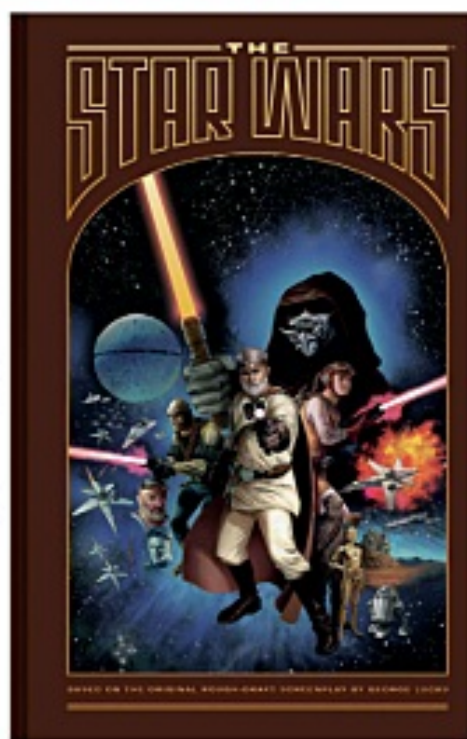
Star Wars: Legacy volume 3—*Wanted: Ania Solo* is written by Corinna Bechko and Gabriel Hardman, with Hardman doing double-duty as artist. The 120-page trade paperback features a cover by Agustin Alessio and is available beginning August 13.

THE STAR WARS GETS A SPECIAL EDITION!

Enjoy an Alternate Take on the Galaxy Far, Far Away with the Deluxe Hardcover Edition of *The Star Wars*

The *Star Wars* is the official comics adaptation of George Lucas's 1974 rough-draft screenplay for the film that eventually became *Star Wars: Episode IV A New Hope*. A lot changed in the multiple scripts that followed, and *The Star Wars* is a fascinating blue-sky take on a saga that might have been. Adapted by Lucasfilm's J. W. Rinzler and featuring the artwork of Mike Mayhew, a new edition collects issues #1-8 of the limited series and issue #0 in a deluxe oversized boxed set composed of three foil-stamped hardcover volumes.

Strap yourself in for high adventure and lasersword duels! The deluxe hardcover edition of *The Star Wars* is available beginning August 13.





INCOMING

THE LATEST *STAR WARS* GEAR YOU'LL WANT TO ADD TO YOUR COLLECTION! WORDS: JAMES BURNS

MATTEL



**MOST
WANTED**

As we revealed in last issue's exclusive interview, the first Mattel Hot Wheels *Star Wars* car is out now! Featuring the most iconic character from *Star Wars*, the 1:64 scale Darth Vader Hot Wheels car comes packaged in a special collector's case that houses a lightsaber with its own lights and sounds. The lightsaber can be removed from the packaging and displayed on the display stand to commemorate this first Hot Wheels *Star Wars* release. The Darth Vader Hot Wheels car is on sale at Comic-Con International San Diego and also at the Hot Wheels Collector's Club (www.hotwheelscollectors.com) whilst stocks last. Available: Now
Price: \$40



FUNKO

The sixth series of Funko's Pop! Vinyl Bobble Heads includes a super-sized wampa, which stands six inches tall. The series lineup also features a Hoth version of Luke Skywalker, the infamous Trandoshan bounty hunter Bossk, Emperor Palpatine, Hammerhead from the Mos Eisley Cantina, and an Imperial Biker Scout. Available: Now
Price: \$10 - \$15



COMIC IMAGES

Comic Images has taken five characters from *Star Wars Rebels* and immortalized them in cloth and fluff! The first wave brings Ezra, Zeb, Chopper, the Inquisitor, and a stormtrooper. Available: Q3
Price: TBD



HALLMARK

Itty Bittys are a new product from Hallmark that they describe as being sweet and unique, and we're delighted that they're expanding their range of characters to include *Star Wars* later this year.

The first six *Star Wars* Itty Bittys will be available exclusively from Hallmark Gold Crown stores and feature C-3PO, Darth Vader, Jawa, Luke Skywalker, Obi-Wan Kenobi, and R2-D2. Luke Skywalker, C-3PO, a Jawa, and Obi-Wan Kenobi will be available only as part of the *Star Wars* Collector's Set.

We can also reveal that there will be a second *Star Wars* exclusive available from Hallmark at Comic-Con International San Diego and New York Comic Con, set for October 9-12! A limited edition of 2,500 two-packs of Itty Bittys featuring a Tusken Raider and bantha will be available only at the two conventions.

In our last issue, we revealed the wampa keepsake ornament from Hallmark. We can now confirm the price for this will be \$35, that there will be only 1,800 made, and that they, too, will be split between the two shows. Available: Q3 Price: \$6.95 - \$35



FANTASY FLIGHT GAMES

The tremendously popular *X-Wing* game from Fantasy Flight Games features dramatic dogfights and tactical, squad-based combat inspired by the greatest space battles in the *Star Wars* galaxy. At the heart of the game are the carefully sculpted and pre-painted starfighter miniatures, which are great for both gameplay and collecting.

In the new Rebel Aces expansion pack, you'll find one A-wing miniature and one B-wing miniature, both of which come with bold alternative paint schemes that allow you to represent those heroic rebel pilots who first flew A-wings and B-wings as experimental prototypes. You'll also find four highly skilled unique new pilots; 13 upgrade cards; a dramatic rescue mission; and all the tokens and maneuver dials you need to launch these starfighters into battle against the evil Galactic Empire. Available: Now Price: \$29.95



HER UNIVERSE



At this year's *Star Wars* Weekends, Her Universe revealed lots of exciting new apparel, along with a collectible high-end jewelry line designed at The Sparkle Factory (and made in the USA). The first offering, titled the "My Hero Collection," features everyone's favorite astromech droid: R2-D2. All of these stunning designer pieces, including rings, pendants, necklaces, earrings, and bracelets, are available for under \$100.

"R2 is my favorite character in the *Star Wars* Universe," says Ashley Eckstein, founder of Her Universe. "He's my hero because he's always there to save the day throughout the saga. I love jewelry and I wanted higher-end *Star Wars* jewelry that will pass the test of time."

Available: Now Price: \$38 - \$85

CuffLinks.com offers an amazing array of licensed cufflinks, tie-pins, socks, money clips, and ties—all featuring rebel, Imperial, and bounty hunter-themed designs!

The majority of products, up until now, have been geared at older *Star Wars* fans, but well-dressed little boys can join the fun with a red X-wing tie, a green Darth Vader tie, a navy rebel tie, a blue stormtrooper bow tie, and many others.

Price: \$25 - \$30 Available: Now

INSIDER EXCLUSIVE!

Use the code **INSIDERS5** at checkout to get \$5 off your order at CuffLinks.com!



Vandor has been making retro cool since 1957, and they're known for creating hip and functional products for fans of all ages. New for 2014 are two unique, hand-painted glasses that would make the ideal gift for any *Star Wars* fan.

Designed by fine artist Adrian Villanueva, each piece utilizes an exclusive multi-dimensional paint-free ReverzArt technique on the inside of the glass. These 20 oz. glasses come packaged in a collector's gift box and there are two styles available: Darth Vader and Yoda.

If you want to add a bit of spice to your dinner, then what better than these Darth Vader and stormtrooper salt and pepper shakers. These hand-painted ceramics are both fun and functional and will become a great talking point at your dining table!

The phrase "Come to the dark side, we have cookies" has been used many times before, but Vandor has taken this one step further, adding the phrase to the inside of their new Darth Vader Ceramic Cookie Jar. It's the perfect place to store your cookies, although you may have to use the Force to ensure you don't eat too many!

Available: Now Price: Various





R2-D2 SIXTH SCALE FIGURE

Available to pre-order now, and coming just in time for the holiday season, everyone's favorite droid, R2-D2, is ready for adventure with intricate articulation and fantastic detailing. The feisty blue-and-white astromech comes complete with sequencing lights and a swiveling dome that features moveable ports and hinged panels; he even has rolling treads and a retractable third leg, enabling tripodal travel.

R2 wouldn't be complete without a hidden Skywalker lightsaber hilt with a magnetic tip that allows access to a range of his internal gadgetry, including periscope, life-scanner, and multiple articulated arms for performing various intergalactic duties. Sideshow Collectibles has been sure to include everything needed to re-create all of your favorite movie moments with special bonus accessories, including Ben Kenobi's round table, Leia's secret holographic transmission, and a multitiered beverage tray for R2's one-time server gig on Jabba the Hutt's luxury sail barge!

Available: December Price: \$149.99

YODA LIFE-SIZED FIGURE

The Force is strong with this one! Continuing a much celebrated range of Star Wars life-sized collector's pieces, Sideshow Collectibles presents the Yoda Life-Sized figure.

Standing 32 inches tall, Yoda appears in his meticulously tailored Jedi robes, resting serenely against his cane as he contemplates the mysteries of the Force. Complete with a Dagobah-themed environment base, featuring a colorful morp critter, Sideshow's life-sized Yoda replica is a dream come true for any Star Wars collector.

Available: December Price: \$2,499

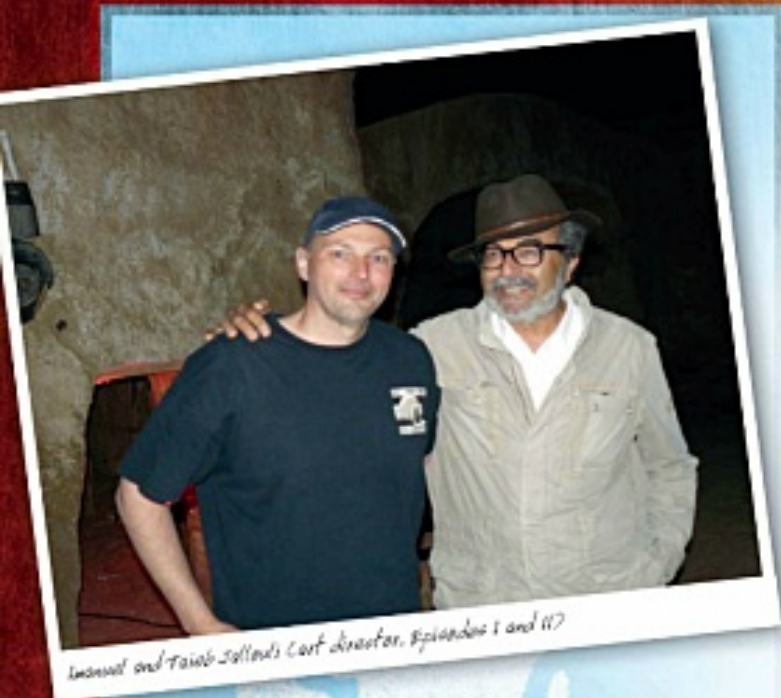


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KOTOBUKIYA



Imanuel and Taleb Jallouli's last director, Episodes I and II

BOUNTY WINNER!

HOMESTEAD BOUND

Because of the work I did on the Save the Lars Homestead project, I was invited by the Tunisian Star Wars fan club (Star Wars Tunisia) to join them on their first international Star Wars event. We gave a presentation at the Mos Espa set, and, after that, *A New Hope* was projected on the big screen.

The best part of the trip, and a great honor, was meeting Taleb Jallouli. He was an art director on the Lars homestead and the Mos Espa set (in Episodes I and II). Getting a compliment from him for the work we did preserving the set and helping Star Wars Tunisia saving Mos Espa was an amazing moment that I will never forget.

—Imanuel Dijk, The Netherlands



Jaeden and his boys meet Sam Witwer!

DROIDS AND DARKSIDERS!

This year at the Calgary Comic and Entertainment Expo, my family and I got the chance to meet and get photos taken with Sam Witwer (Darth Maul/The Son/Starkiller) as well as Anthony Daniels (C-3PO). It was a wonderful opportunity to meet them, and it made this year's Calgary Expo even better!

—Jaeden Seymour, Calgary, Alberta, Canada



Nikolai Carter aka Bib Fortuna meets Anthony



Anthony and Alan Russett (CPLs Keen)



Anthony says "hi" to Barrie Holland!



Jordan and his family meet up with Anthony Daniels!

MOVE OVER, HAN SOLO...

In October of 2011, I went to see Carrie Fisher's one-woman show *Wishful Drinking* at The Chicago Theater when it came through Chicago. There was a part of the show where she was talking about *Star Wars* (while wearing a Leia wig) and she needed a male volunteer to "hit on" or make a romantic pass at a life-sized statue of herself as Princess Leia. Naturally, I jumped up with my hand raised. She spotted me right away and asked me to come on stage with her. She told me to approach the Leia statue and try to make a pass at her. As I got within a foot of the statue, it was quickly raised into the rafters. Carrie comforted me, saying I did my best and that she didn't want to be the only one looking silly in her Leia buns wig. She quickly pulled out another wig and put it on my head!

She then had me read a card announcing the intermission, and, as the curtain closed, she pulled me down onto the couch on stage and pretended we were making out. So I got to pretend to make out on stage with Carrie Fisher in her Leia buns! It was a truly epic, once-in-a-lifetime moment for this *Star Wars* fan!

This is the picture that was taken behind the curtain after that memorable moment I got to spend with the princess!—Sean Hynes, by email



Sean and Carrie Fisher compare hairstyles!



Anthony and son get ready to fight off a Goparvint attack!



Alan Harris (Boba) captures some bounty!

THE EMPIRE STRIKES IRELAND!

I took my kids, Charlie and Rebecca, to their first *Star Wars* convention in Dublin, Ireland, this year. The convention was held by the Emerald Garrind over three days in May and was an excellent show.

Over the three days I met my heroes, including Alan Harris, who played Boba in the *The Empire Strikes Back*. I also met Alan Ruscoe, who played quite a few characters, such as Plo Koon in *The Phantom Menace*, and Michael Carter, who played Bib Fortuna. My favorite actor on the day was Barrie Holland, who played Lieutenant Renz in *Return of the Jedi*. He was an absolute gentleman with my children.—Anthony Bogle, Ireland



Barrie meets the junior Boggles!

CAN YOU GO ONE BETTER?

HAVE YOU MET EWAN MCGREGOR? MAYBE YOU'VE JOKED AROUND WITH JAMES EARL JONES OR EVEN CUDDLED UP TO PETER CUSHING!? SEND PHOTOS, AND STORIES, OF YOUR ENCOUNTERS WITH THE STARS OF *STAR WARS* TO: *BOUNTY HUNTERS*, *STAR WARS INSIDER* VIA THE CONTACT DETAILS ON PAGE 3, OR EMAIL US AT STARWARSINSIDER@TITANEMAIL.COM



VOL
84

BANTHA TRACKS



BY THE FANS
FOR THE FANS

IT'S THE *BANTHA TRACKS* ALMOST-ANNUAL WEDDING EDITION

Star Wars weddings are reported to be on the rise, so *Bantha Tracks* is sharing the joy of galactic matrimony with its Almost-Annual Wedding Edition!

The weddings vary from small touches of Star Wars to... all-out overall theming—with surprises for the guests and, sometimes, for the couple! We wish all the newlyweds a very happy long life together, full of friends, affection—and the Force.

TIM & TIA ROSE'S WEDDING

20TH APRIL 2013 IN MAIDSTONE, KENT, UK

"Not so long ago, in a galaxy far, far away (okay, it was to be in Maidstone, UK), I was contacted about attending a wedding," says Steve Buckley. "Nothing unusual there—the UK Garrison gets many such requests—but this one was from the bride-to-be of none other than Admiral Ackbar himself, Tim Rose!"

Tia contacted the UK Garrison as a surprise for Tim at the wedding reception more than a year in advance.

"We had a year to plan," recalls Buckley, "and a year to keep any Bothan spies from finding out! On the day itself, our members arrived at the reception venue, were shown to their changing room, and got themselves ready. They were going to be prompted by someone in the wedding party as to when Tia and Tim were going to arrive, so waited nervously, hoping nobody had forgotten to make the call. Then it was show time! Our stormtrooper honor guard lined up just inside the entrance ready to greet the newlyweds."

The groom thoroughly enjoyed the surprise, as did the couple's friends and family. Whilst he hadn't known anything about the surprise, Rose later made a donation of many autographed items for the Garrison to auction at its annual charity ball, including his personal copy of the 1983 *Return of the Jedi* Storybook.

Submitted by Stephen Buckley of the 501st UK Garrison.
Photos by Samantha Jones.



↑ Tim Rose realizes it was a mistake to not ask Darth Vader to be his Best Man.



← There was a strict door policy—if you're not on the list, you're not getting in! The 501st UK Garrison members present at the Rose wedding were Graeme Noble (Darth Vader), Pete Brebner, Billy Haggis, Gary Haines, Stephen Weir (stormtroopers), and crew Samantha Jones and Stephen Smith.

GET IN TRACKS!

SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW...

When Emily Schram married her "best friend and fellow geek," Andrew Schramm, she came down the aisle to the Imperial March and the couple recessed to the Throne Room theme. "Something blue was a toy Captain Rex," says Schramm. "The best part was my 501st brothers escorting me and my dad out and then giving us a gun salute as we left," Emily recalls. "Oh, and did I mention that Artco-Defco was the ring bearer?" At the reception, the groom's family sat at Lord of the Rings locations and the bride's sat at tables named after Star Wars planets.

Andrew's brother-in-law gave the Star Wars cake as a wedding gift to the couple.

"I couldn't be in armor that day—which would have been more comfortable than a wedding dress," says Emily, "so the cake decorator made a wee-me in my Rex kit. It was an awesome day and definitely a memorable one!"



FORCEFULLY EVER AFTER

"Jen and Ryan were married on the Jim Henson Company lot in Hollywood with a wedding that was a fandom extravaganza," reports Laura Guerrie of Rebel Belle Weddings.

From stormtroopers and droids to lightsabers in the aisles and handcrafted *Star Wars* dinnerware, the wedding was themed from veil to train.

"The food and beverages were also *Star Wars*-themed, says Guerrie, "with a Jedi carving meals and a Java The Hutt coffee station."

Photos by Juice Box Media



STAR WARS DAY WEDDING

As this edition of *Bantha Tracks* gets ready for press, Brian and Nanci will be getting married on what Nanci Schwartz calls "the real *Star Wars* day:" May 25. The couple met on a *Star Wars* message board, then started the Tosche Station blog and podcast.

"Fellow fan Savannah Kiefer took our *Star Wars* and Disney-themed engagement pictures," says Nanci. "We'll be incorporating *Star Wars* elements into the ceremony and reception, and we'll be ending the wedding day with *Star Wars* fireworks at *Star Wars* Weekends" (in Walt Disney World, Orlando, Florida). Photos by Savannah Kiefer Photography.



MEGA ENGAGEMENT

This past March at Megacon, Rock Becker from the Tampa Bay Squad of the 501st Florida Garrison proposed to "the love of his life and fellow trooper"

Andrea Step. The couple were surrounded by friends and supporters from the 501st and Rebel Legions, and Mandalorian Mercs.

We are pleased to report she said yes. Submitted by Mark Lillquist.





WHAT'S IN YOUR FREEZER?

National Award cake designer Dawn Joy Stoika made the Darth Vader cake for Dr. Paul Leavitt and his wife, Heather. Their wedding was in the Gaylord Opry Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee.

"I still have Darth's head in my freezer," says Leavitt.



THE ULRICH UPDATE →

Eric Ulrich proposed to his girlfriend at Star Wars Celebration VI in Orlando, and *Bantha Tracks* covered their epic proposal in the 2013 "Almost-Annual Wedding Edition."

"You requested news of our wedding when we got married," says Ulrich. "We were happily married last June."

Congratulations!



↑ A DAY LONG REMEMBERED

Alex Yi-han Chen was contacted by his schoolfriend Diane Shiao, whom he had not been in touch with for 18 years. Shiao had seen photos on Facebook of Chen dressed as Darth Vader, dueling with his Jedi-clad daughter Ella. The groom-to-be, Jesse Hutchinson, wished to duel Vader on the couple's wedding day. Chen agreed to help, and the pair met and choreographed the routine, which would be a surprise for the wedding guests.

"This was a day long remembered for the three of us," writes Chen. "Star Wars draws old friends together and helps make new ones."





↑ NEVER TOO MUCH *STAR WARS*

Heading into their wedding day, Matthew Fickbohm and his fiancée Heather had some nice *Star Wars* touches planned, but Fickbohm wanted to surprise his bride with something more.

"My soon-to-be wife was excited for the *Star Wars* cake toppers I had planned featuring Han and Leia, Luke and Mara, and Anakin and Padmé," says Fickbohm, "but there was no way that was enough."

The groom planned a surprise at the grand entrance, making sure Heather stayed out of sight until the time was right.

"I love this picture," he says, "as it captures the surprise and joy on her face! Once we entered, my bride and I took our lightsabers and proceeded to the head table where our civilized weapons were never out of reach. Our wedding party had a blast using the lightsabers for wedding photos."

"As Heather and I look forward to our one-year anniversary in June 2014, we are also looking forward to April 2015 as we attend Celebration VII," concludes Fickbohm. "The Celebration will be my sixth and Heather's first. I don't know which of us is more excited!" Photos by Joyce Meyer.



IT'S TIME FOR... PLAN B

Last year in the Almost-Annual Wedding Edition of *Bantha Tracks*, I hijacked this editorial space for what amounted to a personal ad. While written as though I were looking for a date in the galaxy far, far away ("Pirates OK. Must have own ship.") I thought I was being clear that I was indeed in the market for a scoundrel or otherwise.

That went absolutely nowhere.

Not even a nerf herder has surfaced in the past year, so I have moved on to plan B. I have decided to take up with denizens and creatures at all points of the globe—a friend in every port as they say.



↑ Arfour in Essen, Germany

↑ The Easter Bunny in Anaheim. Don't ask.



↑ UKG mascot Teddy in London

To all the real couples who grace the pages of this year's Wedding Edition, congratulations! Many years of love and friendship and the Force to you!

Get in Tracks!
Mary Franklin, Editor,
Bantha Tracks



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Any original art, envelope art, comics, illustrations, news, stories, meeting information, or any materials voluntarily submitted become the property of *Bantha Tracks*.

No compensation will be given for voluntary submissions, and there is no guarantee of publication. Submissions to *Bantha Tracks* will not be returned.

Each submission must include the creator's name, age, contact details, date the work was created, and a statement that the work is original, and created by the person submitting it.

Send electronic files to banthatracks@starwars.com, or send your snail mail to *Bantha Tracks*, c/o Mary Franklin, P.O. Box 29901, San Francisco, CA 94129

↑ Bossk in Orlando, Florida



RED FIVE



JO DUFFY'S FIVE FAVORITE MARVEL STAR WARS COMICS!

MARVEL STAR WARS WRITER JO DUFFY:

"I frankly loved many, if not most, of my own issues. By and large, excusing the exceedingly rare uncongenial collaboration or unexpectedly leaden execution, things turned out much as I envisioned. I loved Star Wars, and those characters were like good friends to me, if not a weird, extended family. Let's face it: I was lucky enough to work with an amazing array of wonderful artists."

1

"SILENT DRIFTING"

(#24, JUNE 1979)



My Ben Kenobi flashback solo story. I was so thrilled to be doing a Star Wars one-off, and even happier to be allowed to focus on the fascinating General Kenobi. And then came the wonderful news that Carmine Infantino, who drew so many gorgeous comics I read as a kid, was the artist. It was just a blast.

2 & 3

"ELLIE"

(#80, FEBRUARY 1984)



Much as I love drama, action-adventure, and comedy, sometimes you just want to tear people's hearts out, throw them on the floor, stomp on them, and just generally make yourself and everyone else cry, if you can manage to do it in a fair and un-manipulative way. These both accomplished that



"TAI"

(#103, JANUARY 1986)



for me at least; and I think in each case the narrative turned in unexpected directions toward the end that made the whole tale great. And Cindy Martin and Ron Frenz both turned in some of their finest, most nuanced work.

4

"MY HIROMI"

(#106, JULY 1986)

This is my personal love letter to Chuck Jones, and all of the wonderful Bugs Bunny and Road Runner adventures, the insanely kinetic and well-crafted tales he created. The Hiromi were just a blast, so convinced they were so smart and evil and deadly.... and such utter, craven buffoons. I loved whenever we could work them in, and it all started here, the first time they appeared.

5

"RETURN TO STENOS"

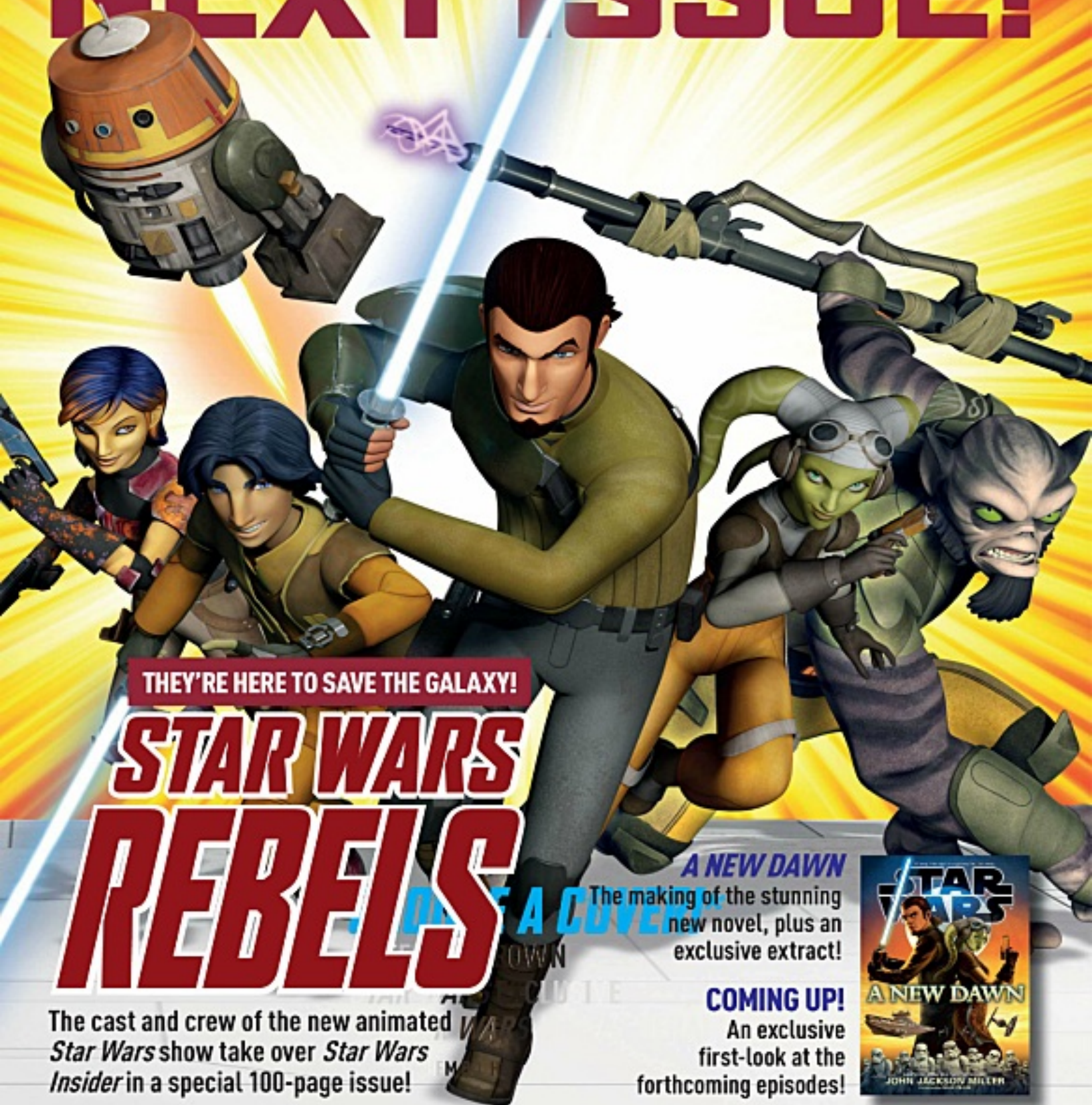
(#71, MAY 1983)

I almost felt guilty getting paid for this one! More than a bit of it was kind of autobiographical, being based on those crazy, surreal, barely survivable bits of misdirection and "mess with the tourists" malice Louise "Weezie" Simonson and I experienced when we were doing either store signings or at cons a few thousand miles from home. Weezie suggested it might make a good *Star Wars* issue, and I had been dying to have some fun with Lando. I laughed when I was writing it... and when Ron Frenz turned the art in, I almost fell on the floor.



Interview by
Mark Newbold
Photo: Alan Light

THE SAGA CONTINUES....
NEXT ISSUE!



THEY'RE HERE TO SAVE THE GALAXY!

STAR WARS REBELS

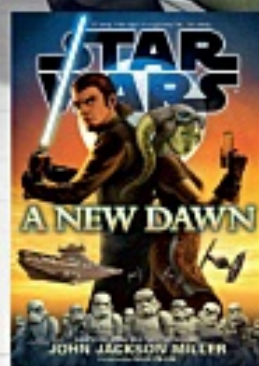
The cast and crew of the new animated
Star Wars show take over *Star Wars*
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The making of the stunning
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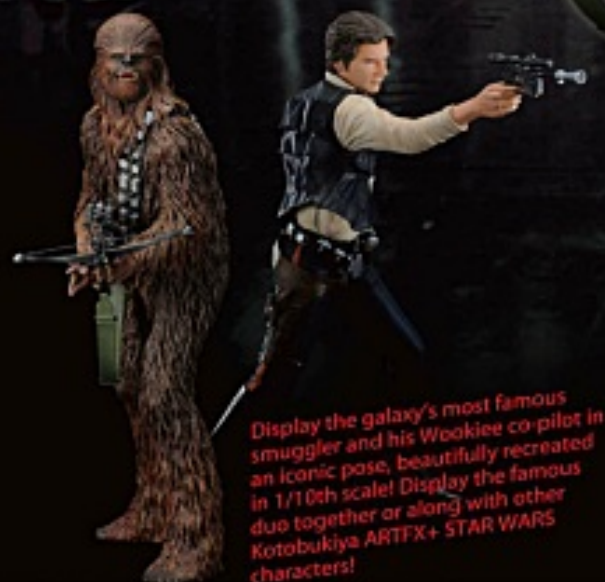
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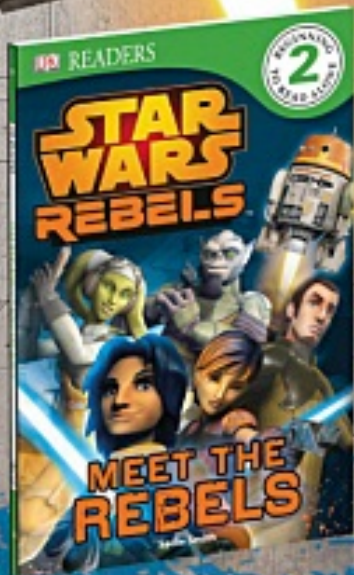
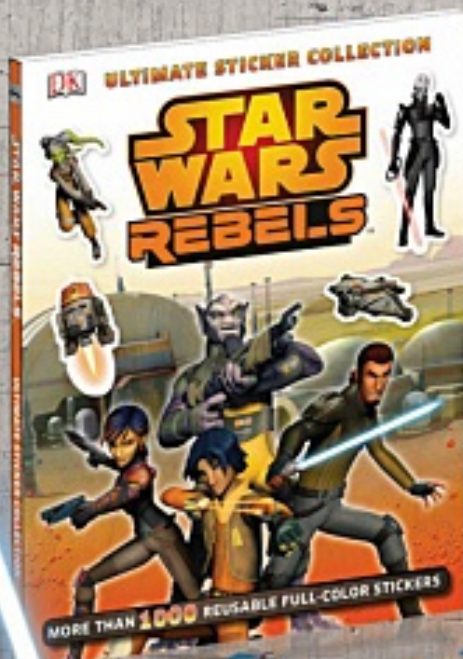
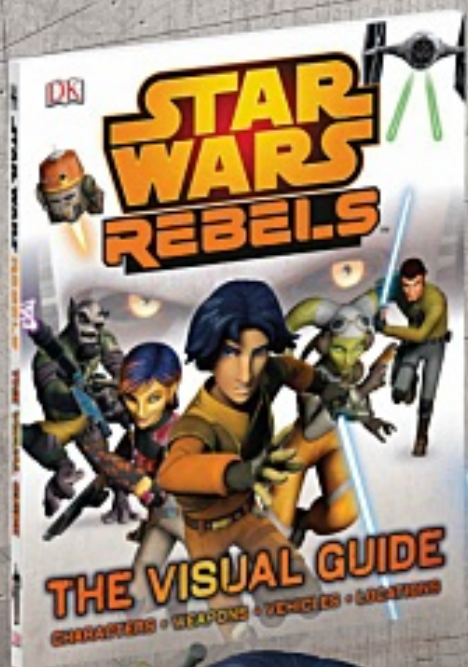
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STAR WARS



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Explore the exciting world of *Star Wars Rebels* and get a firsthand look at the heroes and foes from this new *Star Wars* animated series with these new titles from DK.



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Disney



40
OF IDEAS

A WORLD OF IDEAS:
SEE ALL THERE IS TO KNOW



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